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Argument over land turns fatal

CHRYSTAL MARINO/

Flanked by Corrections officers, Moses P. Cabrera exits the Superior Court in Susupe yesterday following his bail hearing for allegedly killing his brother Pedro P. Cabrera.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Moses P. Cabrera appeared at the Superior Court in Susupe yesterday for a bail hearing after he was arrested following his alleged confession of killing his own brother, Pedro P. Cabrera, whose lifeless body was found at the Garapan Fishing Base last Thursday.

Facing charges of second-degree murder, voluntary manslaughter, aggravated assault and battery, and assault with a dangerous weapon, 78-year-old Moses P. Cabrera appeared before Judge Joseph N Camacho and was placed under a $250,000 bail.

Cabrera will have a preliminary hearing on Aug. 9, 2024 at 10am, and his arraignment hearing on Aug. 19, at 9am. He will be appearing with court-appointed Chief Public Defense Attorney Douglas Hartig. Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds will represent the CNMI government.

In his alleged confession, Moses said he and Pedro had a heated

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CNMI sees over $3M revenue shortfall this 2024 fiscal year

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Palacios

The Department of Finance's third quarter report has reflected an over $3-million revenue shortfall for fiscal year 2024 which will result in a reduced budget across the board for all government entities.

In a letter to Senate President Edith Deleon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan),

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Mesngon: I don't appreciate Star Marianas threatening Rota, Tinian

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Steve Mesngon, who represents the island of Rota on the Commonwealth Ports Authority

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KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Commonwealth Ports Authority Rota representative Steve Mesngon emotionally expresses his frustration with Star Marianas Air, Inc.'s notice to cease air service between the CNMI islands pursuant to a dispute with CPA.

CNMI 'Red Kingdom' candidates file '24 general election petitions

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Deemed the CNMI's "Red Kingdom" due to its community's steadfast loyalty to the CNMI Republican Party, Tinian's sons and daughters came out to Saipan last Friday in support of U.S. delegate candidate Kimberlyn King-Hinds, as well as other candidates from Tinian seeking a seat in the local government, as they officially filed their petitions for candidacy.

Last Friday, CNMI Republican Party candidates from Tinian got together to file their petitions for the

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PORT CALL

OFFICE OF THE CNMI GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios extends a warm welcome to Commander Thomas "Matt" Adams and the crew of the USS *Spruance* during their visit yesterday morning. The USS *Spruance*, a guided missile destroyer with a crew of about 329, is currently docked on Saipan for a scheduled port call through Thursday, marking the sixth military vessel to anchor in the CNMI in the past 12 months. These port calls provide an opportunity for crew members to disembark and explore the island of Saipan, fostering goodwill and strengthening the relationship between the military and the local community while underscoring the strategic importance of the CNMI in regional security.

INSIDE

NATION

After a mostly smooth two-week campaign startup, Vice President Kamala Harris is headed into a crucial week that includes her most critical decision yet—choosing a running mate—while grappling with how to keep that early political momentum alive.

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WORLD

Israel is already in a "multi-front war" with Iran and its proxies, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a Cabinet meeting Sunday, as the United States and allies prepared to defend Israel from an expected counterstrike and prevent an even more destructive regional conflict.

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LIFE & STYLE

After 10 days in theaters, "Deadpool & Wolverine" is already the highest-grossing R-rated movie ever, not accounting for inflation.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Marianas Business Network holds mini town hall meeting

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
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CORRESPONDENT

The Marianas Business Network held a mini town hall meeting with Saipan lawmakers last July 17 at Tom Yum Restaurant in Garapan.

Eight business owners and executives attended the event which was led by businessman PK Phommachanh-Daigo and Islander Rent-A-Car's Aileen Arnold. House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), floor leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), and Reps. Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan) and Vincent Aldan (Ind-Saipan) were the invited members of the Legislature.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Business Network held a mini town hall meeting with the lawmakers last Aileen Arnold of Island Rent-A-Car with the others guests during the town hall meeting.

MBN was launched to provide networking, mutual support, and referral services, which is highly commendable for empowering small businesses on Saipan. The goal of this informal group, which operates without membership fees, is to give a voice to small business owners who are often overlooked by the larger business community.

According to Phommachanh-Daigo, MBN was created to foster a supportive environment where small business owners can thrive together.

"We started this group because we felt that we, as small business owners, often don't have a voice in our local business community, some of us generate enough income to feed our families, while others are part-time freelancers trying to supplement our income," he said.

During the min town hall meeting, members engaged with the representatives, raising several pressing issues affecting their businesses. Topics of discussion included the issues on graffiti on bus stops and crime and theft.

Latte Built owner Derek Cutting, in particular shared, that his solar panel was stolen and how bad the local utility's technology is.

"Solar power right now is great for us because [the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] is a very challenging thing to have to deal with, especially as a commercial user versus a residential user. That's my biggest thing. CUC is still in Stone Age, and it's always bad," he said.

Rep. Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan) said that she has two bills sitting in the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee which aims to recodify the act of vandalism and act of burglary, which will increase the penalties such as fines and imprisonment. She also emphasized the importance of community involvement in crime prevention.

Last Shot Bar owner Travis Jones expressed frustration with the lack of action on crime despite multiple attempts at catching thieves.

"All of us are struggling to keep doors and our businesses open. Everybody says put in more cameras, put in more security costs, more money, and I would be more than happy if someone would give us a tax credit to add security cameras to] every nook and cranny in my place," said Jones.

Flores mentioned that there is a bill—though not under her committee—that would incentivize businesses to have CCTV cameras.

"I believe that it's in someone else's committee, but there are colleagues and member of the 23rd Legislature that see what's happening and trying to pass these bills to get them out, to get them to the Senate, and to pass them at the Senate so we can start offering [incentives] so we can safeguard our community against these high rates of crime."

Other topics of discussion also included workforce development in the Marianas, including the need for skilled labor and the repeal of the CW-1 program.

Propst discussed the alternative proposal that suggests sharing fees between Guam and the CNMI to support the local workforce.

"Recently when we went to Guam, one of the things that we were talking about was to have a worker visa for the CNMI and Guam where we would share the worker's fees. That's a lofty goal, but that's one of the things that we've been discussing."

Aldan discussed the demand for technical skills in the workforce as he mentioned specific jobs like electricians, mechanics, and carpenters.

"Every building, every household somebody has to maintain your A/Cs, your faucet, your light or whatever it is that you keep your building alive, somebody needs to take care of that."

Other CW-1-related issues discussed were about businesses preferring to pay minimum wage to workers. Business owners in attendance argue that CW-1 workers are willing to accept minimum wage as it's more than what they earn in their home countries. They also want the government to address the lack of technical skills training in the CNMI, especially in the field of pastry making and automotive mechanics.

Other topics discussed during the town hall meeting were the following:

- Adoptng a long-term strategy for the next 10-15 years
- The question of voting rights for undocumented immigrants
- Challenges in the economy and immigration
- How to address tax evaders
- Importance of a criminal justice system that prioritizes rehabilitation rather than incarceration

The meeting concluded with each representative expressing their gratitude to those who joined the mini town hall event. They all emphasized the importance of working together and focusing on solutions rather than dirty politics.

Arnold summed up the night's event by saying, "Today's event was a great example of how we can come together to discuss our challenges and find solutions."

As the Marianas Business Network grows, it invites all small business owners on Saipan to join and be part of this supportive and dynamic community. For more information or to get involved, contact Phommachanh-Daigo or Arnold at the Marianas Business Network and Islander Rent-A-Car Facebook pages.

Town hall meeting for Oleai Cultural Events Center Development Project set for Aug. 14

The CNMI Indigenous Affairs Office invites the community to a town hall meeting to discuss the Oleai Cultural Events Center Development Project.

- Date and time: Aug. 14, 2024, 5pm-6pm
- Location: Civic Center Utt, Susupe, Saipan, Kattan Huda

On the agenda:

- The scope of work of the project
- Future plans for the Cultural Events Center
- Open forum for community questions, ideas, and feedback

Your involvement matters and join us as we bring this milestone project to life! For more information, email at l.marciano@gov.mp or call (670) 237-2221.

The Oleai Cultural Events Center Development Project is overseen by the CNMI Office of Planning and Development and funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Additionally, OPD manages the Oleai Sports Complex Project under the same EDA funding. The total EDA funding for these Oleai projects amounts to $21.2 million. ***(PR)***

NMTech, Atkins Kroll partner to boost local workforce

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After signing an MOU signifying their partnership, Northern Marianas Technical Institute CEO Jodina Attao and Atkins Kroll Saipan general manager Clark Boswell, center, are joined by representatives of both NMTech and AK Saipan for a photo last July 29 at the dealership's office along Beach Road.

In an effort toward enhancing vocational education in the CNMI and signifying their commitment to bolstering the local workforce, the Northern Marianas Technical Institute partnered with Atkins Kroll Saipan to provide automotive students a place to practice what they learned at the institute.

Representatives of NMTech and AK Saipan met and signed a memorandum of understanding last July 29 at the latter's office along Beach Road.

With Inchcape Groups' AK being the leading automotive dealership for Toyota and Lexus vehicles across the CNMI, the partnership will provide NMTech's automotive students with invaluable hands-on training opportunities and address the pressing need for qualified automotive technicians in the region.

Under the terms of the MOU, NMTech students will participate in internships at AK's state-of-the-art dealership facility. The internships are designed to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world application, allowing students to work alongside seasoned professionals on cutting-edge automotive technologies. The collaboration aims to enhance the students' skill sets and prepare them for successful careers in the automotive industry.

"We are incredibly excited about this partnership with Atkins Kroll," said Jodina Attao, CEO of NMTech. "This MOU represents a significant step forward in our mission to provide top-tier vocational training that meets the needs of both our students and the local community. By working closely with industry leaders like AK Saipan, we can ensure our students are well-prepared for successful careers."

The partnership conveys the shared commitment of NMTech and AK Saipan to invest in the future of the automotive industry and the local economy. It is expected to serve as a model for similar collaborations between educational institutions and businesses, highlighting the importance of practical training in vocational education.

"AK is very excited to partner with NMTech to provide our youth with hands-on training to further develop their skill sets and industry knowledge," said AK Saipan general manager Clark Boswell. "This partnership is a strong testament to our commitment here in the NMI. Our youth will have the opportunity to intern in our new Toyota and Lexus facility in Puerto Rico, where they will learn in a state-of-the-art facility with world-class equipment. Having served our island for more than 50 years, it is very rewarding to be able to give back to our community by aiding the development of our talent right here in the CNMI."

Rota summer camp spirit stays strong as 4-H Camp Maga'lahi concludes

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A group photo of all houses with the two overall camp leads on Rota.

This year's 4-H Camp on Rota included 34 campers and 16 counselors, all contributing to community development and youth engagement. The Rota 4-H Camp Maga'lahi is a summer camp designed for children ages 7 to 12. It provides a memorable educational experience through a variety of outdoor activities, engaging presentations, and hands-on learning opportunities.

The annual 4-H Camp Maga'lahi on Rota was a tremendous success. Held collaboratively by Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services and 4-H Marianas, the camp took place at Sinapalo Children's Park from July 15 to 19.

Throughout the week, campers had the opportunity to acquire new skills and explore their island's culture. They expanded their knowledge in areas such as vertical mangrove crab farming, healthy lifestyles, power distribution, safety protocols, and power plants. Additionally, campers made new friends and had valuable bonding time with their counselors.

Counselors also gained valuable experience through their preparation and interactions with the campers. They had the opportunity to enhance their leadership and communication skills while fulfilling their responsibilities. One counselor shared, "Camp has helped me become more social and confident while speaking with others."

Parents of campers could see differences in their kids after camp. A parent of a camper said, "My son is happy after camp and is excited to go to camp the next day." Another parent of a camper also saw a positive improvement in her child and said, "Camp helped my child be more social."

NMC-CREES Family, Community, Youth Development Program Extension aide Tonica Barcinas said, "I look forward to having more campers, counselors, and parents volunteer their time for this period."

This year's 4-H Camp on Rota was a great success, thanks to the support of numerous partners and sponsors. We extend our gratitude to the NMC CREES Aquaculture Program, NMC CREES Nutrition & Health Program, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Rota, Department of Fire and Medical Services Rota, Department of Labor, Department of Commerce, Office of the Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Rep. Julie M. Ogo (Ind-Rota), Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog's Office, 19th Rota Municipal Council, and NMC director Diana Hocog for their invaluable contributions.

For more information about 4-H Marianas programs, visit the NMC-CREES website at crees.marianas.edu or on Facebook and Instagram @4HMarianas. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Campers and counselors sing camp songs at the beach on Rota.

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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB), hereby gives notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Thursday, August 8, 2024, at 8 a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes **(06/05/2024)**
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
VII. Director's Report
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
• Special Medical Facility Permit (SMFP)
- Update: A Bill For an Act
- Fee Structure
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
• Total Reviewed = _____ New Application = _____
• Renewal = _____ Pending = _____
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
• Dr. S. Barnett
• Dr. R. Vyas
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-014	Human Resources (HR) Manager/ Executive Assistant (1-Position) *Re-Announcement*	UNGRADED $40,000.00 to $45,000.00 Per annum	July 23, 2024	August 7, 2024 4:00 PM
2024-017	CDBG-DR Accountant (1-Position) *Re-Announcement*	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00 Per annum	May 24, 2024	Until Filled
2024-019	CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist (1-Position)	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00 Per annum	July 10, 2024	Until Filled
2024-021	CDBG-DR Internal Auditor (1-Position)	UNGRADED $50,000.00 to $65,000.00 Per annum	July 23, 2024	August 7, 2024 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre- employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

Zenie P. Mafnas
Acting Corporate Director

FATAL

From page 1

disagreement about their family land, which led to a physical altercation and that Pedro threatened to stab him under the tree at their family compound. Moses then confessed to killing his 71-year-old brother by using a hammer to hit his head and later dumping his body on the southern side of the Garapan Fishing Base.

In a press conference with Department of Public Safety Commissioner Anthony Macaranas, he shared that it was still an open case.

"The investigation is still ongoing. As you know that even though with an arrest, the investigators have other things to look into and further find out."

He also appreciated the team's involved for their hard work. He said that while they are still working hard on the case, he acknowledged that their efforts have brought them this far, commending the joint effort of uniformed police and criminal investigators.

"They had worked throughout the day, especially with the investigators, they worked all night until the wee hours just so that they can gather all the information so we can file the charges against the suspect. And of course, they're still gathering all the evidence, and they'll be sending all the evidence again for additives at the lab," said Macaranas.

He also urged community members who may have seen anything suspicious at the Garapan Fishing Base from between 12pm and 5pm to share what they know to the authorities by contacting DPS or Crime Stoppers.

Court documents shed more light on the matter. According to the file, at about 5:07pm on Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024, DPS dispatched an officer to the Garapan Fishing Base after a report came in of an unconscious male in the area, south of the pavilion. Upon the officer's arrival at around 5:13pm, he saw a male on the ground with his back leaning against a rock estimated to be 3 feet long and 2 feet in circumference in size. The male had short hair wearing a dark colored T-shirt with black long pants appeared to be Levis. The officer observed what appeared to be a dragon tattoo on the male's stomach with multiple tattoos on his arms. The officer also observed that the male's head was tilted backward and saw that his face from his forehead to his nose was cracked open, and the male's left eye sunk into his head which appeared to the officer like he was staring down a hole. The officer also observed an estimated 1-inch cut on the left side of the male's chin area, but did not smell any strong odor coming from the body.

The officer requested for crime scene technicians from the Criminal Investigation Bureau to come to his location, and around 6pm, they took photos of the male for evidence purposes before they transported the body to the morgue.

The crime scene technician observed that the male's body and tattoos looked familiar. They identified the male as a former inmate of the Department of Corrections named Pedro Pangelinan Cabrera. The officer had watched Cabrera during his eight years as a Correction officer.

He recalled meeting with Pedro Cabrera on June 13, 2024, for an interview regarding a complaint against him. The detective had taken a photo of Cabrera at that time and used it to compare the tattoos on the body with the tattoos in the photo. From the male's arm tattoos and small hoop earring on his left ear, a positive identification confirmed the deceased as Pedro Cabrera.

At approximately 6:50pm, a doctor determined Cabrera's cause of death to be severe trauma to the head. Other injuries noted include skull fragments and the left eye socket loose in the skull.

At around 6:53pm, police detectives and officers arrived at the San Jose Motel located in Oleai. They encountered a tenant who mentioned that he last saw Cabrera early that morning, but he was unsure of the exact time. He couldn't recall what Cabrera was wearing but noted that Cabrera often wore a black beanie.

The tenant stated that Cabrera typically visited his family's residence located south of the motel, which has a white water tank outside. The tenant also stated that Cabrera's brother, Moses Cabrera, was the only person who would drive Cabrera if he needed to go anywhere and that Moses owned a black Nissan Sentra. After they concluded their interview, detectives stepped out of the San Jose Motel building and saw a black Nissan Sentra parked at Moses' residence.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

RED

From page 1

upcoming general election at the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Among the Tinian contenders were GOP's U.S delegate candidate King-Hinds, Sen. Karl King-Nabors (R-Tinian), Rep. Patrick San Nicolas (R-Tinian), and Tinian Municipality council members Joseph Santos, Ana San Nicolas, and Esteban Cabrera who are seeking re-election.

CNMI Republican Party president Diego T. Benavente said initially all the Republican Party candidates were supposed to file together, but it ended up not pulling through. However, Benavente expressed that it did work out as it became sort of a special event for members of the Tinian community as its candidates decided to file together, a testament to Tinian's commitment to its party and to its community.

King-Hinds, who appeared excited and nervous as she filed her petition last week, shared that filing her petition alongside her brother and fellow Tinian folks made the nerve-wracking experience memorable.

"I never in a million years imagined that we would be in this situation. It is very special," she said.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

From left, Tinian Municipality council members Joseph Santos, Esteban Cabrera, U.S. delegate candidate Kimberlyn King-Hinds, Tinian Municipality council memberAna San Nicolas, Sen. Karl King-Nabors (R-Tinian), and Rep. Patrick San Nicolas (R-Tinian) pose for a photo after filing their candidacy petitions at the Commonwealth Election Commission last Friday.

King-Hinds added that the Tinian Republican Party candidates are running unopposed which she says speaks volumes about the work that they have put into addressing the need of the Tinian community

"I want to take that same spirit of collaboration and unity, that one-team mentality for the CNMI. We are one team fighting for the same thing and that is all of us have the same opportunity whether you are Chamorro, Refaluwasch, Filipino, or from the Federated States of Micronesia, we all deserve a better chance, we all deserve the same opportunities and that is what this election is all about," she said.

Speaking for herself, King-Hinds said filing her candidacy brought a feeling of nervousness and excitement, but also a somber feeling knowing she is stepping up to the plate to help address issues of the entire CNMI should she be elected.

"[I'm] signing up to seek this office, to take on the responsibility of helping our people. As I go out and knock on doors, you see the state of the quality of life that community members who are often unheard from, and you hear their burdens, it's not lost of on me that I'm stepping up to the plate to help them. With that responsibility is just this nervousness but also excitement at the same time. This is a serious responsibility and I'm ready to work," she said.

Ultimately, King-Hinds said her running for office is beyond her party affiliation, rather the CNMI's well-being as a whole.

"Yes, I am a Republican Party candidate, but this is about the whole CNMI. This election is about choice: whether we're going to continue with the same path and continue to do the same thing and see the same results or we all level up together and, instead of fighting against one another, we fight for each other and work towards a goal, and the goal right now is to improve the quality of life of our people," she said.

Aside from King-Hinds, also running for the U.S. Congress are House floor leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), freelance business consultant and grants writer John Oliver Delos Reyes Bolis Gonzales running as an independent, and Chamorro activist Liana S. Hofschneider who is also running as an independent.

REVENUE

From page 1

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios stated that due to Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita's third quarter report (which indicated a $3.4 million revenue shortfall in the current fiscal year), there will be a budget reduction across the board for the current fiscal year.

Specifically, in her quarterly report to the Legislature last week, Norita said the cumulative revenue forecast for the first three quarters of the year was $124 million, but the actual collection was only $120.5 million.

The third quarter of the fiscal is from April 1 to June 30, 2024 and the current fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, 2024.

"Although collections in the remaining months of the fiscal year may offset these shortfalls, it would be prudent to initiate a conservative reduction in the budget authority to mitigate the anticipated fiscal year-end deficit," said Palacios.

In his letter, Palacios said pursuant to 1 CMC Section 7604©(4) (or the Planning and Budgeting Act), he is mandating an immediate proportionate reduction in the allotment authority of all branches, offices, departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Commonwealth which are subject to appropriations.

"The effect of this reduction will be reflected in the budget authority remaining for the fiscal year," he said.

The Office of Management and Budget has revised the remaining budget allotments from August to September 2024, amounting to $16.6 million.

"The proportionate reduction will result in a total budgetary decrease of over $2.3 million or 2.15%. This cut will offset the third quarter lapses of over $1.2 million as of June 30, 2024, as reported by Finance," he said.

Palacios said this reduced budget allocation will have an impact on government operations and services.

"However, the current financial condition of the CNMI requires that we quickly realign government spending with available resources. To meet this challenge, it is imperative that agencies and activities examine their operations and identify areas where they may be reduced or eliminated altogether, while we maintain the reduced work week at 70 hours," he said.

Palacios is urging lawmakers to pass tax-hike measures.

"This administration is committed to collaborating with the Legislature to increase government revenue and avoid further fiscal challenges. We must work together to enact measures that will both protect the livelihoods of our government employees as well as the critical services upon which our entire community depends," Palacios said.

For its part, the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee is finalizing the FY 2025 budget measure, which reflects the governor's revised budget proposal.

The committee will come up with a final draft of the FY 2025 budget bill this week.

MESNGON

From page 1

board, says he doesn't appreciate Star Marianas Air, Inc.'s threats to cease air services for Rota and Tinian pursuant to issues with CPA.

In an emotional outburst during CPA's special board meeting last week, Rota representative Mesngon, with tears in his eyes, expressed his frustration with Star Marianas who he claims is essentially threatening the people of Rota and Tinian.

"What's really bothering me is our people on Rota and Tinian. That's what's really bothering me. Initiating a monkey race with us and Star Marianas along [and involving the governor] stating that they're going to terminate their services in October. [SMA] is basically threatening us and I don't like that," he said.

Mesngon urged the rest of the board to act for the sake of the people of Rota and Tinian who are reliant on Star Marianas' air service, which is currently the only airline providing inter-island air service in the CNMI.

"I highly recommend that we get out and search for other options. I think there are other airlines who can service on a charter basis. If it takes us personally going over to plead for their service, by all means. I don't want to be sitting here acting like I'm fighting for my people on Rota and I'm just keeping quiet. I'm sorry to say this, but if Star Marianas is trying to threaten the people of Rota, I'll be on the front lines of finding another airline that can guarantee to serve our people especially medically. If that's the reason he's threatening the service for Rota and Tinian, we don't appreciate it," he said.

Mesngon expressed the absurdity of using a facility without paying, litigation or not.

"How in the world do you use a facility and not pay for it. Then, you go out there and raise your fess because CPA raised its fees passing on to consumers the charges but you're still not paying the facilities. Who does that. I'm frustrated by this because I protect the interests of the CNMI. Let's look for another airline, please, let's advertise that we need service," he said.

"This needs to stop. If you use the facility, you need to pay. Litigation is a different issue. But we need another airline in the CNMI," he said.

Board chair Joe Ayuyu has expressed that he is in the process of getting another airline to provide inter-island service for the CNMI.

SBDC, BOH continue partnership for 3rd year with 'Smart Money Seminar'

The CNMI Small Business Development Center, hosted by the Northern Marianas College, is excited to announce the continuation of its partnership with Bank of Hawaii for the third consecutive year, bringing the "I Kinometi Para I Kuminidat I Isla-ta" Small Business Revitalization & Development Grant to local entrepreneurs. This partnership aims to support the growth and sustainability of small businesses in the CNMI, providing them with essential resources and training. The grant, designed to foster economic development and innovation, will award up to $5,000 to five selected small businesses. These funds are intended to assist businesses in revitalizing their operations, expanding services, or developing new projects. The CNMI SBDC will facilitate the mandatory "Smart Money Seminar" for all grant applicants, ensuring they are well-prepared and informed about the grant's opportunities and requirements.

The "Smart Money Seminar" will offer an overview of the grant and a workshop on the ABCs of Credit, a critical component for financial success. The seminar will be held twice to accommodate all interested participants: the first session will take place on Aug. 13, featuring guest speaker Vincent Perez, vice president and Commercial Banking officer of BOH Guam Commercial Banking Center, and the second session on Aug. 14, with guest speaker Rita C. Jugo, vice president of BOH Guam Commercial Banking Center. Both sessions will be conducted via Zoom from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

"We are thrilled to continue our partnership with Bank of Hawaii, which has been instrumental in providing much-needed support to our local small businesses," said Mercilynn K. Palec, CNMI SBDC Network associate director. "Our commitment remains strong in offering a variety of resources and opportunities to our aspiring entrepreneurs, helping them navigate and succeed in the ever-evolving business landscape."

Training details:

■ Title: Smart Money Seminar

■ Training Day 1:

❖ Guest speaker: Vincent Perez, VP & Commercial Banking officer of BOH Guam

Commercial Banking Center

❖ Time: 5:30pm-6:30pm

❖ Where: Via Zoom

❖ Registration link: https://marianas.ecenterdirect.com/events/1019163

■ Training Day 2:

❖ Guest speaker: Rita C. Jugo, VP of BOH Guam Commercial Banking Center

❖ Time: 5:30pm-6:30pm

❖ Where: Via Zoom

❖ Registration link: https://marianas.ecenterdirect.com/events/1019164

Applications for the Bank of Hawaii "I Kinometi Para I Kuminidat I Isla-ta" Small Business Revitalization & Development Grant will be accepted from Aug. 12 to 16, 2024. The Smart Money Seminars will follow on Aug. 13 and 14, 2024, with the announcement of grant recipients scheduled for Aug. 30, 2024.

For more information about the Bank of Hawaii grant or to learn how to get involved, please contact the CNMI SBDC Network at (670) 237-6888 or cnmisbdc@marianas.edu and follow us on social media at @cnmisbdc on Instagram or CNMI Small Business Development Center on Facebook.

The CNMI SBDC Network promotes a business-friendly economic infrastructure in the community, builds entrepreneurial capacity and financial literacy within that community, and provides current and nascent small businesses with the technical assistance, counseling, training, and support they need to innovate, adapt, and grow. The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network comprises the CNMI SBDC lead center located in Saipan, the Rota SBDC, and Tinian SBDC. The CNMI SBDC Network is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Northern Marianas College. All opinions, conclusions, or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact your local SBDC at P. O. Box 501250 Saipan, MP 96950, Tel: (670) 237-6888, or email SBDC Administrative Office manager Adelpha Magofna adelpha.magofna@marianas.edu.Services are extended to the public on a non-disciplinary basis. ***(PR)***

Registration ongoing for NMC's Fall 2024 semester

Registration is open and ongoing for Northern Marianas College's Fall 2024 semester for anyone interested in earning a degree and advancing their careers, knowledge, and skills with NMC. The semester begins on Aug. 19, 2024.

Applications for admission and other forms may be filled out and submitted online at https://www.marianas.edu/discovernmc. Hard copy applications may be picked up at NMC's Office of Admissions and Records located in Building N at the NMC As Terlaje campus.

Supporting documents (i.e. health evaluation form with a valid TB Skin Test and copy of a valid photo I.D.) must be turned in together with the Admissions Application through the Admissions App Portal at www.marianas.edu/apply. Official transcripts from institutions previously attended can be sent via email to admissions@marianas.edu. The deadline for completing the admissions application is on Friday, Aug. 9, 2024.

New students must take the NMC Math and English Placement test if they do not meet any eligible placement alternatives. Placement testing is only available via appointment. To make an appointment, register online at https://forms.gle/21WvMVa2iCiz4jdi7. If a student has attended Start Smart or any NMC Info Session within the year, they can avail a fee waiver by providing their completed passport to the testing center staff. New and readmitted students must also view the online student orientation program in order to register for courses. Contact testingservices@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu/testingservices for more information.

Individuals who need financial aid can also apply for scholarships such as the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, which provides financial assistance to those who meet certain eligibility criteria. The deadline for SHEFA is Sept. 30, 2024.

Individuals can also apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid at studentaid.gov/fafsa. By filling out the FAFSA form, students can receive up to $7,395 in federal financial aid for the 2024-25 award year.

Students and parents who need assistance with completing the FAFSA are invited to register for Northern Marianas College's final Free FAFSA Workshop on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, at NMC's Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library. Incentives will be given out to those who successfully complete their FAFSA forms. Students, parents, and others who plan to attend the workshop must register here: https://bit.ly/4eUJRqn.

The free FAFSA workshop on Saturday will have a session for students from 9am to 1pm and a session for parents from 2pm to 6pm.

For more information regarding the FAFSA, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office through email at fao@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6790. Participants can also stop by the Financial Aid Office from 9am to 3pm Monday to Thursday.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Education (Concentration in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Rehabilitation and Human Services, or Special Education), Bachelor of Science in Business Management (Concentration in Accounting or without Concentration); Associate of Arts in Business, Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration (Emphasis in Accounting, Business Management, or Computer Applications), Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality Management, Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts (Emphasis in Education, Kinesiology, Pre-Engineering, Social Work, or without Emphasis), Associate of Science in Nursing, Associate of Science in Agriculture, Associate of Science in Natural Resource Management, Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice, and Associate of Science in Fire Science Technology. The certificate programs at NMC include Basic Law Enforcement, Business Management, Computer Applications, Early Childhood Education, Fire Science Technology, Hospitality Operations, Nursing Assistant, and Small Business Management.

A list of the classes that are offered can be found at www.marianas.edu. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at (670) 237-6769/70/71/72 or email oar@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF CRM PUBLIC HEARING

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW)
ROUTE 103 AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following project:

CRM Major Siting Application No. RMS-2024-065 – The Department of Public Works (DPW) is proposing to construct road and drainage improvements on Route 103 on the island of Rota. The road construction and drainage improvements consist of hot asphaltic concrete pavement with a friction coarse layer, complete base, and sub-base fill materials. Other work includes drainage improvements to ensure proper water management and reduce risk of flooding, installation of new traffic signs, and pavement markings. The road construction begins east of Rota Resort and Country Club and ends at the asphalt road east of the Rota International Airport.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on **Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 5:00PM,** at the Round House Building in Songsong Village, Rota.

Due to limited internet service on Rota, DCRM will not be providing video conferencing at the public hearing venue.

If you are unable to attend in-person, written comments may be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at permitting@dcrm.gov.mp. The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project. Please contact Ms. Amy Sanchez at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 or via email at permitting@dcrm.gov.mp if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the proposed DPW Route 103 and Drainage Improvements Project.

/s/ Richard V. Salas
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP24-CHCC/ FACILITY-025

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 12th , 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

PROCUREMENT OF 500KW CONTAINERIZED GENERATOR

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP24-CHCC/ CAS-024

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 12th, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

PROCUREMENT OF UNINTERRUPTED POWER SUPPLY (UPS)
(Outright Purchase, Shipping, Delivery, Installation, Training, and Commissioning)
for CHC Hospital / Radiology Department

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER (CGC)
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES/TRANSITIONAL LIVING CENTER
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
RFP24-CHCC/CGC/BHS-TLC-026

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 13th, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Biden's radical plan to hijack the Supreme Court

Self-awareness has never been a strong suit of the current White House, but President Joe Biden's push to overhaul the U.S. Supreme Court may take the cake.

Biden picked himself up off the curb on Monday long enough to unveil a plan to end lifetime tenure for the justices and to allow Congress to become involved in enforcing a code of ethics for those on the court. In other words, we have a man who has been part of the Washington bureaucracy for half a century now embracing term limits and an administration that maintains its political opponents are a "threat to democracy" proposing to ignore the separation of powers and the wisdom of the Founders.

In reality, the proposal has no chance of passing a divided Congress. There are constitutional questions about its very feasibility. But it highlights how far progressives are willing to go to undermine established institutions and traditions in pursuit of power. There is only one reason Democrats have chosen this road, and it has nothing to do with "democracy." Those on the far left are apoplectic with recent decisions and will do anything they can to tear down the court in hopes of rebuilding it with justices who embrace a post-constitutionalist worldview that recognizes virtually no limits on federal authority.

There is a valid reason why federal judges are appointed for life. In Federalist No. 78, Alexander Hamilton noted that "the judiciary, from the nature of its functions, will always be the least dangerous to the political rights of the Constitution; because it will be least in a capacity to annoy or injure them." Lifetime tenure was put in place to shield the federal courts from political pressures and to ensure their independence. Biden's radical proposal would undermine that important objective and create a judiciary more subject to the whims of the executive and legislative branches.

As for the ethics code, the justices have adopted such guidelines, and it is up to the justices to enforce them. Giving Congress a role in this regard would further erode judicial autonomy. "Liberty can have nothing to fear from the judiciary alone," Hamilton wrote, "but would have everything to fear from its union with either of the other departments. … The complete independence of the courts of justice is peculiarly essential in a limited Constitution."

But for all their talk about "democracy," Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and their fellow travelers on the left aren't interested in "a limited Constitution" or judicial independence. They seek a Supreme Court that bows to their demands. And they aren't particularly concerned about what norms they have to trample to get it.

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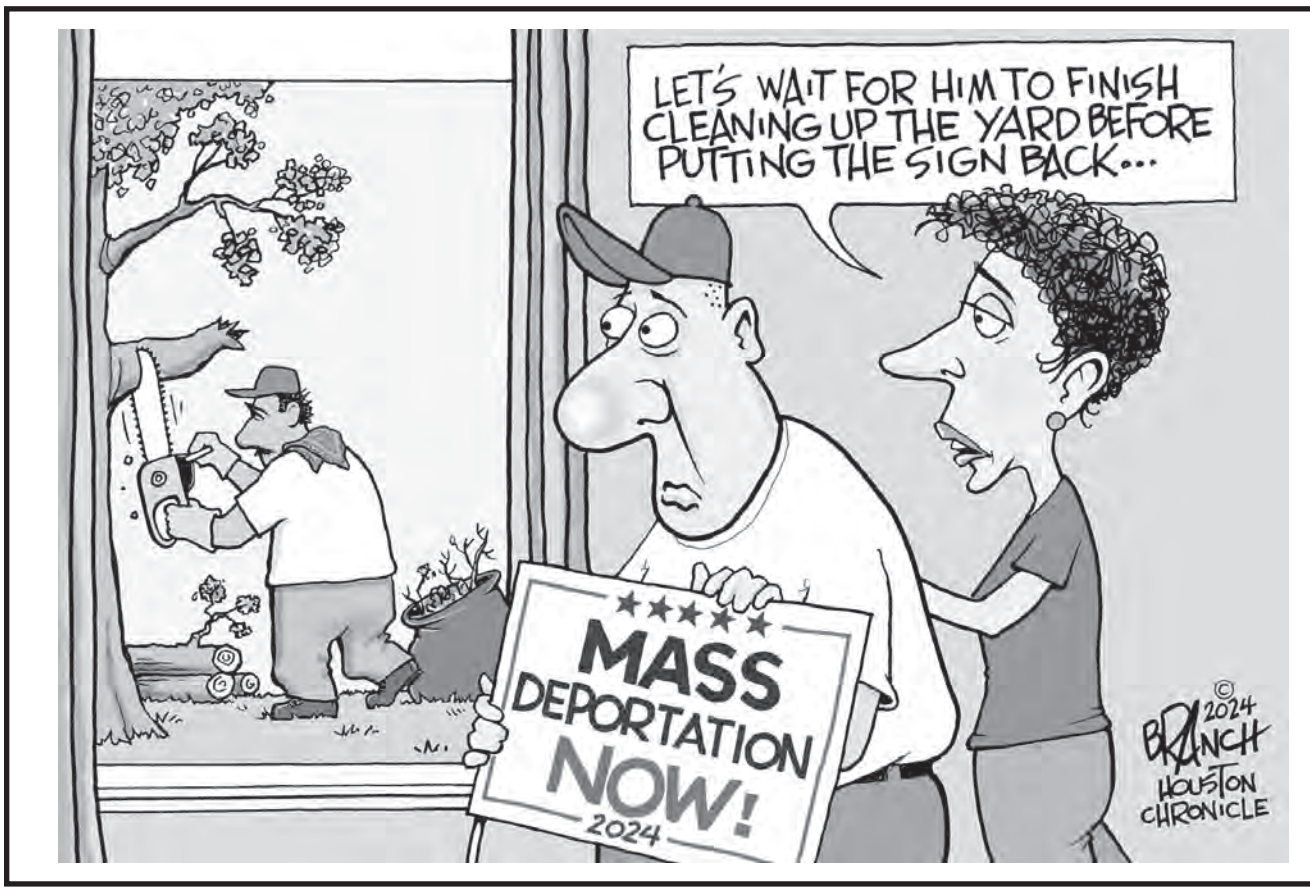
LET'S WAIT FOR HIM TO FINISH CLEANING UP THE YARD BEFORE PUTTING THE SIGN BACK...
MASS DEPORTATION NOW! 2024
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Could Trump stop free and fair elections? Hitler and Mussolini's paths could be a clue

By RUTH BEN-GHIAT and BENJAMIN CARTER HETT
Los Angeles Times

Ruth Ben-Ghiat is a history professor at New York University and the publisher of Lucid, a newsletter about threats to democracy. Her latest book is "Strongmen: Mussolini to the Present." Benjamin Carter Hett is a professor of history at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, CUNY. His latest book is "The Nazi Menace: Hitler, Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin, and the Road to War."

Donald Trump doubled down Monday on his recent statement that conservative Christians won't have to vote again if they help elect him in November. At a campaign event for evangelical Christians last week, the former president said: "Christians, get out and vote. Just this time. You won't have to do it anymore. Four more years. You know what? It'll be fixed. It'll be fine. You won't have to vote anymore."

We should not be surprised. Free and fair elections have been a nightmare for Trump, who lost the popular vote in 2016 and was voted out of office in 2020 after one term, whereupon he told his followers that he had won and fomented a violent insurrection.

No wonder the former president is all in for the authoritarian alternative. Autocrats have long seen depending on elections to decide one's political fate as unacceptable. They have "fixed" democratic systems by ending free and fair elections so they could stay in power indefinitely, just as Trump seems to wont to do.

Many strongmen, including Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini as well as more recent examples such as Vladimir Putin and Hungary's Viktor Orbán, had to succeed in a democratic electoral system before they could impose authoritarian rule. Both Mussolini and Hitler were appointed by conservative elites who felt that giving power to extremists with criminal records was preferable to allowing the left to win.

Mussolini got into office quickly. He founded the Fasci Italiani di Combattimento, or Italian fighting leagues, in 1919 as a decentralized militia movement to violently stop leftist strikes and factory occupations. The group evolved into the Fascist Party, and by 1922, Mussolini had been appointed prime minister.

But elections always posed a problem for Mussolini, whose party was initially unpopular, identified as it was with chaos and violence. Fascists who ran independently in 1921 got only 0.4% of the vote. That is why in 1923, musing about how to deal with "discontented people" who might vote one out of office, Mussolini wrote: "You prevent it by means of force" and "by employing this force without pity when it is necessary to do so," a description that fits many coup attempts, including Jan. 6.

To prepare for the 1924 elections, the Fascists introduced an electoral reform, the Acerbo Law, that gave any party receiving the largest share of votes, as long as they surpassed 25% of the total, two-thirds of the seats in Parliament. A climate of intimidation ensured the law passed and shortly thereafter the Fascists won the election.

After the socialist opposition leader Giacomo Matteotti denounced the election results, he was assassinated. When Mussolini's involvement in the assassination became public and the possibility of jail time loomed, he declared a dictatorship and passed "laws for the defense of the regime" that shut down opposition parties, eliminating any rationale for elections. Italians did not have free and fair elections for the next 18 years.

Hitler had watched Mussolini's rise from Germany, and when his 1923 Beer Hall Putsch, a Nazi coup attempt, failed, he changed his tactics.

Hitler had learned that to overturn a democratic system, you have to get inside it. "We shall have to hold our noses and enter the Reichstag [Germany's parliament] against the Catholic and Marxist" parties, he said in 1925. But that didn't mean he pretended to love democracy. He and his party openly waged campaigns to destroy it.

The last free election in which Hitler ran came in early 1933. At a fundraising meeting with major industrialists, sounding like many of today's Republicans, he said the election was German voters' last chance to reject communism. If voting didn't work, he warned, the Nazis would use violence. Hitler's economics minister concluded the meeting by bluntly ordering the businessmen to visit the cashier and make their contributions to the Nazi Party.

And like Mussolini, Hitler knew how to consolidate power. A week before the election, after a mysterious arson attack heavily damaged the Reichstag, he issued a draconian decree that obliterated all individual rights and freedoms and gave his administration the ability to take over state governments.

The Nazis won just over 43% of the popular vote, well short of a majority. But Hitler followed through on his promise of violence and arrested or killed many of his parliamentary opponents. He then intimidated most of the rest into voting for the

See COULD on Page 7

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Biden drags Supreme Court into politics

By NOLAN FINLEY
The Detroit News

President Joe Biden is treating the Constitution as a mere suggestion in calling for sweeping changes to the United States Supreme Court. For the most part, what he is proposing can only be done by amending the founding document, a process that is extraordinarily difficult, and in this instance, unnecessary.

Biden's play on the high court is entirely political, aimed at making control of the Supreme Court a driving issue in the fall presidential campaign. Vice President Kamala Harris, the presumptive Democratic nominee now that Biden has withdrawn from the race, signed on to the proposals.

The president is asking for three measures—term limits for justices, an ethics code governing their behavior and a reversal of the court's recent ruling granting broad immunity to former presidents.

On term limits, Biden would limit a justice's tenure to 18 years, and would allow a sitting president to appoint a new justice every two years. The ethics code would require justices to report all gifts and refrain from all public political activity and recuse themselves from cases in which they or their spouses have conflicts of interest. As for the immunity ruling, Biden is asking Congress to begin the process of amending the Constitution to bring about its reversal.

Whether or not term limits are a good idea for justices is not the point. Article III of the Constitution specifies federal judges are to be appointed to lifetime terms. Changing that would take a constitutional amendment. That requires a two-thirds vote of both congressional chambers, as well ratification by 38 of the 50 of state Legislatures.

By design, passing an amendment is a rare and difficult feat. The Founders didn't want the Constitution to be at the mercy of popular whims.

It's less clear whether Congress could impose an ethics code. The Constitution says the court's jurisdiction must be exercised under "such regulations as Congress shall make." Whether the justices would consider that to mean lawmakers can regulate their private activities is a huge question.

More ethics at all levels of government is desirable. But Congress should take a look in the mirror first. A national ethics code that takes in the justices as well as senators and representatives would be more appealing. For example, 86% of Americans favor banning lawmakers and their families from trading stock, according to a University of Maryland survey.

We share the president's concerns that the presidential immunity decision may allow an executive to avoid accountability for clearly criminal activity. But, again, amending the constitution is an arduous endeavor.

Supreme Court justices were given lifetime terms to insure an independent judiciary free from political pressure. Biden throughout his tenure has sought to politicize the court, casting it as a Republican front that stands in the way of the type of government Americans want.

In reality, his beef with the conservative leaning court is that he disagrees with its rulings. And in an affront to constitutional separation of powers, Biden has ignored decisions that didn't go his way. For example, he boasted of "bypassing" the court when it ruled he didn't have the authority to forgive student loans.

There's a democratic process in place for altering the Supreme Court. It's called winning presidential elections.

Are women in the pulpit the reason mainline Christians are leaving the pews?

By RANDALL BALMER
Los Angeles Times

Randall Balmer, an Episcopal priest, teaches religion at Dartmouth College.

This week marks the 50th anniversary of the ordination of 11 women as priests in the Episcopal Church, and the milestone is being cited by some commentators as the beginning of the decline of the denomination.

As an Episcopal priest and a student of American religious history, I heartily disagree.

On July 29, 1974, amid threats of violence, three bishops ordained 11 deacons into the priesthood at Church of the Advocate in Philadelphia. The act was brazen and, according to the canons of the Episcopal Church, illegal.

At the denomination's General Convention in 1970, women were seated in the House of Deputies for the first time, and until then, they had been ordained as "deaconesses," to distinguish them from male deacons. The convention that year eliminated the distinction, raising hopes that at the next gathering three years later, the convention would approve the ordination of women to the priesthood.

The 1973 General Convention, however, refused to allow women's ordination. "Grace is channeled through men," one of the priests thundered.

Nevertheless, to paraphrase Mitch McConnell, they persisted.

Strategists decided that more than one woman should be ordained and that more than one bishop should preside—protection in numbers. Inquiries were sent to 14 female deacons. Those who agreed to the plan, one recalled in a remarkable new documentary, "The Philadelphia Eleven," were "not the same by any means. Conservative and liberal and progressive and radical and right on the edge."

Church of the Advocate was chosen as the venue because of the prophetic voice of Paul Washington, its African American rector, or lead pastor. As word of the impending ceremony leaked to the press, participants faced threats of violence. Police were mobilized outside the church.

The ordinations proceeded, in joyful celebration. Barbara Harris, who 15 years later would be the first female bishop of the Episcopal Church participated in the ceremony.

Reactions were swift and decisive. The church's leaders were summoned to an emergency meeting at a central meeting place, Chicago's O'Hare Airport. Unsurprisingly, they declared the ordinations invalid. Many women also opposed. "It is simply a role that a woman cannot fill," one said. "I'd be delighted if they go away," a man, who referred to the "priestesses" as "11 little Indians," said.

The first time the women presided at Communion took place not in an Episcopal church but at the interdenominational Riverside Church in New York City, in October 1974. The road to acceptance was long and tortuous. Pastors who invited the women to celebrate Mass in their parishes imperiled their own livelihoods. "Your career is over," Peter Beebe, then the rector at a church in Oberlin, Ohio, was told.

Beebe, however, invoked the civil disobedience of the Civil Rights movement and named the hypocrisy, especially to a bishop who had marched with Martin Luther King Jr. at Selma. "How dare you preach to this country... " Beebe said to him, "and not to your own institution?"

Even the vote at the 1976 General Convention to validate women's ordination did not end the backlash. One of the most riveting clips in "The Philadelphia Eleven" comes from William F. Buckley's "Firing Line" television program. Buckley, usually intelligent and articulate, could also be smarmy, and the clip captures the latter as he set up his Episcopal guests, a layman and a bishop, both of whom opposed women's ordination.

"The notion that the ordination of women should be supremely offensive requires a little explanation," Buckley began, punching the words "supremely" and "offensive."

"It seems as if we've lost our moorings, we've lost our standards," the unidentified lay guest responded. "We have no sense of authority anymore." The bishop replied that the issue was both theological and moral. "It's not just the ordination of women; it's the entire breakdown of any moral standards within the life of the church."

Neither guest was asked to explain how moral standards were compromised by the ordination of women.

The Episcopal Church was not the first American denomination to ordain women—there is a long history of women ministers in the U.S. dating back to the 19th century—but the battle half a century ago was a significant one because of the church's cultural prominence.

It's worth noting that the Southern Baptists reversed course on women's ordination following its conservative takeover in 1979. To this day, the largest Protestant denomination in the U.S. is as adamant as Roman Catholics in refusing to ordain women. As Jimmy Carter, a Southern Baptist, has pointed out, it's easy to cherry-pick passages from the New Testament and wrench them out of context to justify the subordination of women, but that misses the bigger picture.

The Philadelphia ordinations changed the Episcopal Church. Many congregations left the denomination, and the historian in me hastens to point out that this may be only the second major instance in American religious history when a religious group chose effectively to diminish its numbers in obedience to the mandates of the Gospel. (The other was the 18th century reformation of Quakerism in Pennsylvania to reclaim its pacifism.)

The kerfuffle over women's ordination, however, prepared the Episcopal Church to weather the storms surrounding the ordination of gay priests and the consecration of a gay man, Gene Robinson, as bishop of New Hampshire in 2003.

Have numbers declined? Yes, without a doubt, but that trajectory began in the mid-1960s and is common to all "mainline" denominations—or as I prefer, "brand-name" churches: Methodists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Disciples of Christ, Lutherans and Episcopalians.

But "success" should be reckoned in terms of faithfulness rather than numbers. Jesus, the founder of our faith, never condescended to women, even in the patriarchal context of 1st century Palestine, and St. Paul, the first apologist for Christianity, declared that in Christ there is no distinction between Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female.

It's hardly radical to note that institutions are human contrivances and therefore flawed. But institutions also tend to endure, and there is little doubt in my mind that the Episcopal Church will survive and is the better for having welcomed women into the priesthood.

COULD

From page 6

Enabling Act, which gave his administration virtually unlimited power. It had taken him seven weeks to translate his open dislike of voting into full dictatorial control.

Today, as "electoral autocracies" take hold around the world, elections are no longer enough to classify a country as a democracy. Many elected leaders manipulate electoral systems to get the results they need to stay in office and keep elections going to cover their despotism with a veneer of freedom.

Trump seems to want something even more radical: no voting at all. The GOP supports this with claims that elections have been so corrupted by Democrats that they have ceased to be a valid way to choose leaders. As the MAGA loyalist Sen. Tommy Tuberville of Alabama told Newsmax in 2023, "The American people should just stand up and say, 'Listen, enough's enough, let's don't have elections anymore.'"

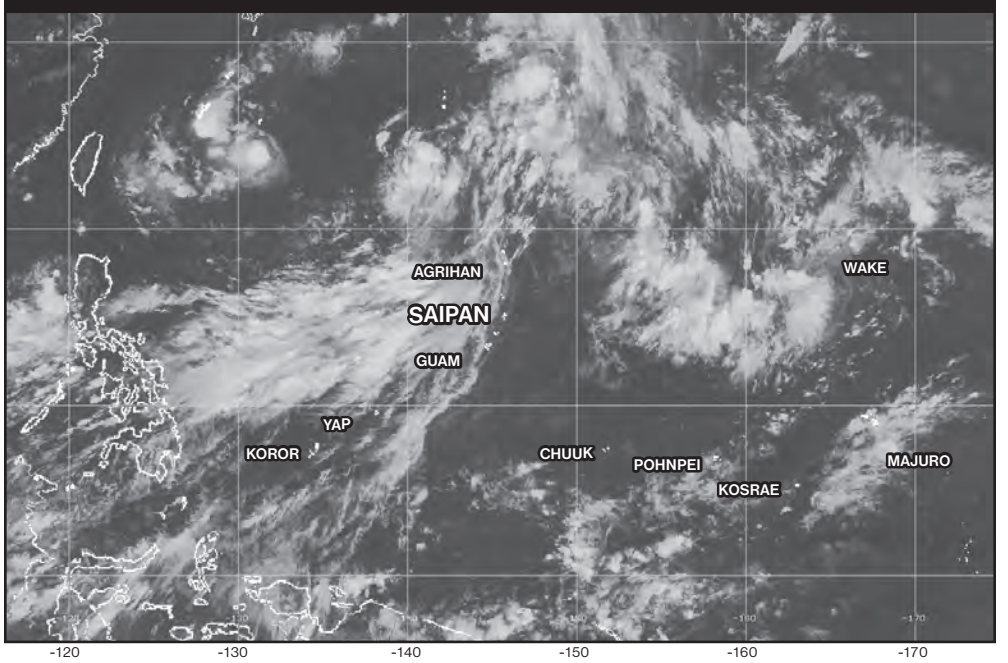
Strongmen always tell us who they are and what they are going to do. With the example of the Fascists in mind, we should take Trump and his enablers seriously. The endgame of Republican election denial is not to challenge particular election results but to suppress free and fair voting altogether.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Isolated showers. Partly sunny.	Partly sunny.	Mostly sunny.	Mostly sunny.	Mostly sunny.
86° 79°	86° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:47 AM MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows convective clouds over the region are not quite as deep and heavy as yesterday morning, and convection is slightly more disperse. Radar shows most significant areas of showers are mainly just over western coastal waters of the Marianas and farther west and northwestward. Saipan Buoy shows combined seas still ranging from 6 to 8 feet, and Ritidian shows mainly 5 to 7 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	92° / 80°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 82°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	90° / 77°
Kosrae	Showers in the Vicinity	88° / 80°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Wednesday	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:14 AM	8:04 PM	-
Wednesday	8:02 AM	8:38 PM	-
Thursday	8:48 AM	9:11 PM	-
Friday	9:33 AM	9:43 PM	-
Saturday	10:19 AM	10:16 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	60° / 46°
Beijing	Fair	91° / 73°
Hong Kong	Fair	93° / 83°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
London	Partly Cloudy	64° / 63°
Los Angeles	Sunny	92° / 72°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Cloudy	55° / 45°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	89° / 83°
New York	Clear	81° / 71°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	93° / 80°
Paris	Sunny	77° / 59°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	104° / 79°
Salem	Thunderstorms	81° / 70°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	67° / 58°
Seoul	Light Rain	97° / 80°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	96° / 80°
Washington, DC	Fair	89° / 74°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:04 AM	Low Tide	1.25
7:55 AM	High Tide	1.96
3:10 PM	Low Tide	0.08
9:57 PM	High Tide	1.18

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
7C2306/3472	11:10PM	4:40PM+1	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

US hiring fell sharply in July

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy suffered an unexpected setback in July as hiring fell sharply and the unemployment rate rose for the fourth straight month with raised interest rates taking a toll on businesses and households.

Employers added just 114,000 jobs in July—35% fewer than expected—and unemployment, now at 4.3%, is the highest since October 2021, the Labor Department reported Friday.

"Things are deteriorating quickly," said Julia Pollak, chief economist at ZipRecruiter.

The sharp downturn in U.S. hiring shook financial markets around the world. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 610 points, or 1.5%. The S&P 500 tumbled 1.8%.

The sturdy U.S. economy has been a key driver of global economic growth and the U.S. jobs market has been the fuel, giving Americans the confidence and financial wherewithal to keep spending.

The unemployment rate's jump to 4.3% in July crossed a tripwire that historically has signaled recession—though economists say the gauge probably is not reliable in the post-pandemic economy.

Hiring may have been disrupted by Hurricane Beryl, which slammed the Texas economy last month. And ZipRecruiter's Pollak noted employers have cut worker hours and made temporary layoffs—suggesting that they are optimistic a rate cut may turn things around.

"They are just slowing hiring and putting people on temporary layoff, furlough," Pollak said. "They want to get back to business. They see lots of opportunities to expand. They they just need rates to be (lower)."

» An unexpected setback for economy stoking recession fears

The Federal Reserve said this week that in needed to see more evidence inflation is moving toward its 2% target before it cuts rates. Chair Jerome Powell characterized the American job market as healthy despite calls for the central bank to begin lowering its benchmark rate, which stands at a 23-year high.

Hourly wages rose just 3.6% from July 2023, the smallest year-over-year gain since May 2021, and another sign that inflation could be heading closer to the Fed's target.

July job gains were concentrated in a few industries. Healthcare and social assistance firms added 64,000 jobs last month, accounting for 56% of hiring. Restaurants, hotels and bars added nearly 26,000 jobs.

Labor Department revisions, however, clipped 29,000 jobs from May-June payrolls. This year, the economy has generated nearly 203,000 jobs a month, solid but down from 251,000 last year, 377,000 in 2022 and a record 604,000 in 2021, when the job market roared back from pandemic lockdowns.

The economy is weighing heavily on voters' minds ahead of the November presidential election. Many Americans have been unimpressed after three years of strong job gains, exasperated instead by high prices. Two years after inflation hit a four-decade high, price increases have eased but consumers are still paying 19% more for goods and services than they were in spring 2021.

The so-called Sahm Rule, named for the former Fed economist who came up with it, Claudia Sahm, holds that a recession is almost always already underway if the unemployment rate (based on a three-month moving average) rises by half a percentage point from its low of the past year. The jump to 4.3% unemployment crosses that threshold.

Chinese businesses hoping to expand in US bring jobs face uncertainty and suspicion

WASHINGTON (AP)—It was billed as the "biggest ever economic development project" in north Michigan when Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in 2022 welcomed a Chinese lithium-ion battery company's plan to build a $2.36 billion factory and bring a couple thousand jobs to Big Rapids.

But now the project by Gotion High-Tech is in the crosshairs of some U.S. lawmakers and local residents.

Leading the charge is Republican Rep. John Moolenaar of Michigan, chairman of the House Select Committee on China, who accuses the Chinese company of having ties to forced labor and says he fears it could spy for Beijing and work to extend China's influence in the U.S. heartland. Gotion rejects the accusations.

"I want to see this area have more jobs and investments, but we must not welcome companies that are controlled by people who see us as the enemy and we should not allow them to build here," Moolenaar said at a recent roundtable discussion in Michigan.

Lured by the large U.S. market, Chinese businesses are coming to the United States with money, jobs and technology, only to find rising suspicion at a time of an intensifying U.S.-China rivalry that has spread into the business world.

U.S. wariness of China, coupled with Beijing's desire to protect its technological competitiveness, threatens to rupture ties between the world's two largest economies. That could hurt businesses, workers and consumers, which some warn could undermine the economic foundation that has helped stabilize relations.

"This is a lose-lose scenario for the two countries," Zhiqun Zhu, professor of political science and international relations at Bucknell University, said in an email. "The main reason is U.S.-China rivalry, and the U.S. government prioritizes 'national security' over economic interests in dealing with China."

Lizhi Liu, an assistant professor of business at Georgetown University, said the trend, along with the decline of U.S. investments in China, could hurt China-U.S. relations.

"Strong investment ties between the two nations are crucial not only for economic reasons but also for security, as intertwined economic interests reduce the likelihood of major conflicts or even war," she said.

But U.S. lawmakers believe the stakes are high. Sen. Marco Rubio said at a July hearing that China is not only a military and diplomatic adversary for the U.S. but also a "technological, industrial and commercial" opponent.

"The technological and industrial high ground has always been a precursor of global power," said Rubio, a Republican from Florida. He argued that U.S. foreign policy should take into account the country's commercial, trade and technological interests.

Nation

AFTER SMOOTH CAMPAIGN START

Harris faces a crucial week ahead

WASHINGTON (AP)—The crowds are psyched. The campaign donations are flooding in. Volunteers are showing up at field offices in droves.

After a mostly smooth two-week campaign startup, Vice President Kamala Harris is headed into a crucial week that includes her most critical decision yet—choosing a running mate—while grappling with how to keep that early political momentum alive.

AP

Vice President Kamala Harris delivers remarks at a Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority gathering in Houston, July 31, 2024, in Houston.

Harris, a former prosecutor known for being deliberative, effectively has a deadline of Tuesday to select who will be her No. 2 from a list that has been whittled down to four governors, a senator and a Cabinet official who was also one of her 2020 foes. It's a high-pressure decision that usually spans several months, but in this case is compressed into a matter of just weeks.

From there, Harris and her running mate will launch into an aggressive, seven-state battleground tour that begins in Philadelphia on Tuesday and winds through Wisconsin, Michigan, North Carolina, Georgia, Arizona and Nevada. Her early rallies have attracted enthusiastic thousands.

Campaign officials are aware that momentum can be fleeting and are working to capitalize on the energy now, while managing expectations by continuing to emphasize the race with Republican nominee Donald Trump is tight. But the strong rollout has allowed the Harris campaign to put a number of states back in play that had been feared out of reach when President Joe Biden remained at the top of the ticket.

Harris faces new tests in the coming days as she works though key decisions — including her vice presidential pick, with the potential to disappoint elements of the coalition.

She has not faced the level of scrutiny that presidential candidates typically face. While she has kept up a busy schedule of public appearances, she has rarely taken questions from the press and has not sat for an in-depth interview. After four years advocating for Biden's positions, she'll have to stake out positions of her own on the political controversies that divide Democrats.

Harris' message is coming into clearer focus with each day. Her first television ad last week portrayed her as "fearless" and emphasized what has emerged as a rallying cry for her campaign: "We are not going back."

She is also repeatedly emphasizing the concept of freedom, focusing not just on Trump as a threat to democracy but also the freedom to have an abortion and be safe from gun violence.

Meanwhile, her prosecutorial background is emerging as a central dividing line with Trump. In rallies and ads, she contrasts her record going after hardened criminals and corporate wrongdoers against Trump's indictments, convictions and civil judgments.

Firefighters continue battling massive wildfire in California ahead of thunderstorms, lightning

CHICO, Calif. (AP)—Firefighters made progress Saturday against California's largest wildfire of the year ahead of expected thunderstorms that could unleash fire-starting lightning and erratic winds and erode progress made over the past week. Dry, hot conditions posed similar threats across the fire-stricken West.

"We're not completely out of the woods yet, but we're looking very, very good," CalFire official Mark Brunton said in a video update Saturday. "This is moving at a very fast pace."

Containment of the Park Fire, now California's fourth-largest wildfire on record, was at 27% as of Saturday afternoon. Brunton said the relatively milder weather the last few days allowed firefighters to build containment lines.

But hotter weather, fuels and terrain will continue posing challenges for the estimated 6,500 firefighters battling the fire, which has spread over 626 square miles (1,621 square kilometers) since allegedly being started by arson in a park in the Sierra Nevada foothills east of the Sacramento Valley city of Chico. For comparison, the city of Los Angeles covers about 503 square miles (1,302 square kilometers).

Suppression crews will also start removing damaged infrastructure in some areas Saturday. People living in the rural communities of Cohasset and Forest Ranch were told they could start returning home Saturday afternoon.

The fire originated at low elevations, where it quickly burned through thick grass and oaks, destroying at least 567 structures and damaging 51 so far. As it has climbed higher, the vegetation has changed to a greater concentration of trees and brush, Cal Fire said.

The fire's push northward has brought it toward the rugged lava rock landscape surrounding Lassen Volcanic National Park, which has been closed because of the threat. The area remains one of the biggest challenges for firefighters, Cal Fire officials said Saturday afternoon. The smoke has also prevented firefighters from deploying helicopters and other aircrafts the last few days.

"There's a lot of really steep drainages in that area," CalFire spokesperson Devin Terrill said. "It takes a lot more time to access those areas."

World

US and allies prepare to defend Israel

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Israel is already in a "multi-front war" with Iran and its proxies, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a Cabinet meeting Sunday, as the United States and allies prepared to defend Israel from an expected counterstrike and prevent an even more destructive regional conflict.

Tensions have soared following nearly 10 months of war in Gaza and the killing last week of a senior Hezbollah commander in Lebanon and Hamas' top political leader in Iran. Iran and its allies have blamed Israel and threatened retaliation. Hamas says it has begun discussions on choosing a new leader.

» As Netanyahu says it's already in 'multi-front war' with Iran

Netanyahu said Israel was ready for any scenario. Jordan's foreign minister was making a rare trip to Iran as part of diplomatic efforts — "We want the escalation to end," Ayman Safadi said—while the Pentagon has moved significant assets to the region.

"We are doing everything possible to make sure that this situation does not boil over," White House deputy national security adviser Jon Finer told ABC.

In Israel, some prepared bomb shelters and recalled Iran's unprecedented direct military assault in April following a suspected Israeli strike that killed two Iranian generals. Israel said almost all the drones and ballistic and cruise missiles were intercepted.

A stabbing attack on Sunday near Tel Aviv killed a woman in her 70s and an 80-year-old man, according to Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service, and two others were wounded. The police said the attack was carried out by a Palestinian militant, who was "neutralized."

Inside Gaza, the Health Ministry said at least 25 people were killed and 19 others injured when Israel struck two schools in Gaza City. AP video showed at least one child among the dead. Israel's military, which regularly accuses Palestinian militants of sheltering in civilian areas, said it hit Hamas command centers.

"As you can see, there is no equipment to recover the injured. Rescuers are digging with their hands," said one man, Yusuf Al-Mashharawi.

Earlier, Israeli strikes killed at least 18 people. One hit a tent camp for thousands of displaced Palestinians in the courtyard of Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, killing four people, including one woman, the Health Ministry said. The Israeli military said it targeted a Palestinian militant in the strike, which it said caused secondary explosions, "indicating the presence of weaponry in the area."

Ukraine's Zelenskyy displays newly arrived F-16 fighter jets to combat Russia in the air

SOMEWHERE IN UKRAINE (AP)—Ukraine's newly arrived F-16 fighter jets were put on display Sunday by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who said the planes will boost the country's war effort against Russia.

"These jets are in our sky and today you see them," said Zelenskyy, standing in front of two of the fighter jets as two others flew overhead in close formation. "It's good that they are here and that we can put them to use."

Ukraine is also trying to get neighboring countries to help defend it against Russian missiles, Zelenskyy said.

"This decision is probably a difficult one for our partners, as they are always afraid of unnecessary escalation," said Ukraine's president. "We will work on this ... I think we have a good option of a NATO-Ukraine council ... so that NATO countries could talk to Ukraine about the possibility of a small coalition of neighboring countries that would shoot down enemy missiles."

Two F-16 jets, sporting Ukraine's trident insignia on their tails and draped in camouflage netting, were a dramatic background for Zelenskyy's address to Air Forces Day, an event held under tight security at an undisclosed location to protect the fighter jets from Russian attacks.

"Since the beginning of this war, we have been talking with our partners about the need to protect our Ukrainian skies from Russian missiles and Russian aircraft," Zelenskyy said. "Now we have a new reality in our skies. The F-16s are in Ukraine. We made it happen. I am proud of our guys who are mastering these aircraft and have already started using them for our country. ... Our combat aviation will bring us closer to victory."

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WORLD BRIEFS

N. Korean leader marks the delivery of 250 nuclear-capable missile launchers to frontline units

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea marked the delivery of 250 nuclear-capable missile launchers to frontline military units at a ceremony where leader Kim Jong Un called for a ceaseless expansion of his military's nuclear program to counter perceived U.S. threats, state media said Monday. Concerns about Kim's nuclear program have grown as he has demonstrated an intent to deploy battlefield nuclear weapons along the North's border with South Korea and authorized his military to respond with preemptive nuclear strikes if it perceives the leadership as under threat. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said the launchers were freshly produced by the county's munitions factories and designed to fire "tactical" ballistic missiles, a term that describes systems capable of delivering lower-yield nuclear weapons. Kim said at Sunday's event in Pyongyang the new launchers would give his frontline units "overwhelming" firepower over South Korea and make the operation of tactical nuclear weapons more practical and efficient.

Renewed anti-government protests leave nearly 100 dead, hundreds more injured in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Nearly 100 people were killed and hundreds more injured Sunday as renewed anti-government protests swept across Bangladesh, with protesters calling for the prime minister to resign and the prime minister accusing them of "sabotage" and cutting off mobile internet in a bid to quell the unrest. The country's leading Bengali-language daily newspaper, Prothom Alo, said at least 95 people, including at least 14 police officers, died in the violence. The Channel 24 news outlet reported at least 85 deaths. The military announced that a new curfew was in effect Sunday evening for an indefinite period, including in the capital, Dhaka, and other divisional and district headquarters. The government had earlier imposed a curfew with some exceptions in Dhaka and elsewhere. Demonstrators are demanding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation following protests last month that began with students calling for an end to a quota system for government jobs.

Voices across the globe express concern over increasing arrests in Venezuela after disputed election

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Voices across the globe expressed concern Sunday over the growing number of arrests in Venezuela following last weekend's disputed elections. Pope Francis said Venezuela is "living a critical situation" in his traditional Sunday remarks at the Vatican, adding, "I appeal to all parties to seek the truth, to avoid all kinds of violence." The remarks came hours after Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro announced Saturday that the government has arrested 2,000 opponents. At a rally in the Venezuelan capital Caracas, Maduro pledged to detain more people and send them to prison. U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Jon Finer told CBS program "Face the Nation" Sunday that the Biden administration is worried the arrests could spark wider unrest. "We are concerned about the prospect of instability, should there continue to be these detentions," Finer said. And in a statement, the leaders of several European countries including France, Spain, Germany and Italy said "the rights of all the Venezuelans, especially the political leaders, should be respected during this process. We strongly condemn any arrests or threats against them."

Life & Style

WITH $97M SECOND WEEKEND

‘Deadpool & Wolverine’ sets new high mark for R-rated films

NEW YORK (AP)—After 10 days in theaters, “Deadpool & Wolverine” is already the highest-grossing R-rated movie ever, not accounting for inflation.

In its second weekend, the Marvel Studios blockbuster starring Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman continued to steamroll through movie theaters, collecting $97 million according to studio estimates Sunday. That raised its two-week total to $395.6 million, pushing it past the long-reigning top R-rated feature, “The Passion of the Christ,” which held that mark for 20 years with $370 million domestic.

Worldwide, the Shawn Levy-directed “Deadpool & Wolverine” has quickly amassed $824.1 million in ticket sales, a total that already surpasses the global hauls of the first two “Deadpool” films. The 2016 original grossed $782.6 million worldwide; the 2018 sequel collected $734.5 million.

The weekend’s primary challengers both struggled.

M. Night Shyamalan’s latest thriller, “Trap,” managed a modest opening of $15.6 million at 3,181 theaters for Warner Bros. The film, starring Josh Hartnett as a serial killer hunted by police at a pop concert, didn’t screen for critics before opening day and scored lower in reviews (48% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) than Shyamalan’s films typically do. Audiences gave it a C+ CinemaScore.

AP

This image released by 20th Century Studios/Marvel Studios shows Ryan Reynolds as Deadpool/Wade Wilson, left, and Hugh Jackman as Wolverine/Logan in a scene from “Deadpool & Wolverine.”

With a budget of about $35 million that Shyamalan largely finances himself, “Trap” didn’t need a huge opening. But it may struggle to break even.

“This is a soft opening for an M. Night Shyamalan suspense crime thriller,” wrote David A. Gross, a film consultant who publishes a newsletter for Franchise Entertainment. “The writer/director’s movies out-earn other original thrillers by a wide margin, and that’s true here, but this start is not on the level of recent Shyamalan films.”

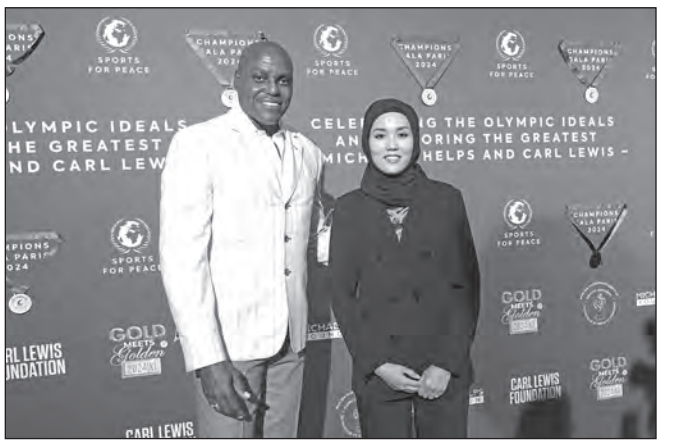
The live-action “Harold and the Purple Crayon,” adapted from the classic kids book, also didn’t make much of a mark in theaters. Th,e Sony Pictures release debuted with $6 million. It, too, got dinged by critics (28% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes), though audiences (an A- CinemaScore) liked it more. “Harold and the Purple Crayon,” which stars Zachary Levi, cost about $40 million to make.

“Twisters,” the Universal Pictures disaster film, continues to kick up a storm at the box office. It held in second place with $22.7 million in its third weekend. Lee Isaac Chung’s sequel to the 1996 original, starring Glen Powell, Daisy Edgar-Jones and Anthony Ramos, has racked up $195.6 million domestically. While it has made less of an impression overseas, “Twisters” is holding particularly well in North American theaters, down just 35% from the week prior.

Hollywood closed July with its best month in a year and its first $1 billion month since July 2023. While comparisons to last year aren’t favorable—July was when “Barbie” and “Oppenheimer” launched—a pair of Walt Disney Co. releases in “Inside Out 2” and “Deadpool & Wolverine” (the two top films of the year) powered a banner month for the movie industry.

There will still reminders, though, of harder times in cinemas earlier in the spring and early summer, when a sparse release calendar and a few notable flops put the box office at a deficit. On Friday, AMC Theatres, the largest North American chain, posted a $32.8 million loss for the second quarter of 2024.

Iconic Olympians Carl Lewis and Michael Phelps honored at gala for their philanthropy contributions



AP

Former Olympian Carl Lewis, left, and representer of the IOC’s Refugee Olympic Team Masomah Ali Zada arrives for the Sport for Peace Gala in Paris, Saturday, Aug. 3, 2024.

PARIS (AP)—Sharon Stone leaped with joy at the sight of Carl Lewis and was left speechless when Michael Phelps entered the room.

During the Sports for Peace gala at the Four Seasons George V in Paris many shared Stone’s exuberance for the two iconic Olympians. Phelps and Lewis were honored for their outstanding contributions to sport and philanthropy.

Cyclist Masomah Ali Zada accepted the award on behalf of the IOC Olympic Refugee Team.

When Phelps accepted his award, the record-setting Olympian said his goal is to promote healthy living and equip families with swimming skills.

Stone, an honorary chair with Sports for Peace, said that peace can be achieved through awareness from influential figures like Phelps and Lewis. An auction was held to raise money for Lewis’ foundation, which supports a wide array of activities—including organ donor awareness.

The unidentified auction winner won a one-on-one training session with Lewis.

Online romance prompts existential questions

DEAR ABBY: I met a man from another country through the internet last year. In the beginning, we talked every day via video chat. We share much in common. We never have a problem keeping our conversations going, and we pick up on each other’s emotions and needs without even trying.

Our communication is less frequent now that our relationship is maturing. With this newfound freedom from the phone, I’m starting to question how wise it is to continue pursuing a future together. Although we have never met in person, I feel he is trustworthy and absolutely wonderful, and I would even go so far as to say he’s my soulmate.

The questions that are always in the back of my mind, though, are: Am I crazy for thinking this is the real deal? Is it too good to be true? And if I don’t pursue this further, am I missing my only opportunity for a lasting love?

MATCHED IN MICHIGAN

DEAR MATCHED: This is not your “only” opportunity for lasting love. Whether this is the real deal or too good to be true remains to be seen. Because you found this match online, you need to be cautious. If it’s possible, arrange to visit him in his country, which will give you the opportunity to meet his family and friends and observe his living situation. If he is genuine, he should welcome it. If he is hesitant, however, regard it as a significant red flag.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My older sister and I are educated professionals in our late 40s. We reside in different states. Our father’s cognitive function and mobility are deteriorating, so my parents sold their large home in another state to downsize and move to a senior community near me. The area in which I live is affordable. Living near me is a logical choice, since I am attentive and reliable, and I have often assisted them and my in-laws in the past.

My sister has chosen to view my parents’ move as their choosing me over her. Initially, she stopped speaking to me. When I texted and asked why I hadn’t heard from her, she said my texts “weren’t high on her list of priorities.” In another exchange, she told me she hoped my husband, who is being treated for a heart condition, dies before he can vote. Then, she stopped speaking to our parents. During their last email exchange, she told my mother to cry on the shoulder of the “daughter she chose.”

My sister has treated me similarly in the past, but she has never before shut out our parents. She used to call them often, and they miss talking to her. I’m not sure reconciling is an option, but it is difficult to witness her being so cruel during this time of extreme stress. What are your thoughts?

SIBLING DRAMA IN GEORGIA

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR DRAMA: Your sister’s attempts to punish you and your parents for the decision they made has only reinforced that they made the correct one. I am sorry she has been so successful in inflicting pain on all of you because none of you deserve her over-the-top reaction. By shunning you, she has succeeded only in isolating herself from those who care for her.

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

YOU KNOW WHAT'S WEIRD? I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH OF ANYTHING UNTIL I WAS THREE YEARS OLD.
HALF OF MY LIFE IS A COMPLETE BLANK! I MUST'VE BEEN BRAINWASHED!
GOOD HEAVENS, WHAT KIND OF SICKO WOULD BRAINWASH AN INFANT?! AND WHAT DID I KNOW THAT SOMEONE WANTED ME TO FORGET??
BOY, AM I MYSTERIOUS.
I SEEM TO RECALL YOU SPENT MOST OF THE TIME BURPING UP.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

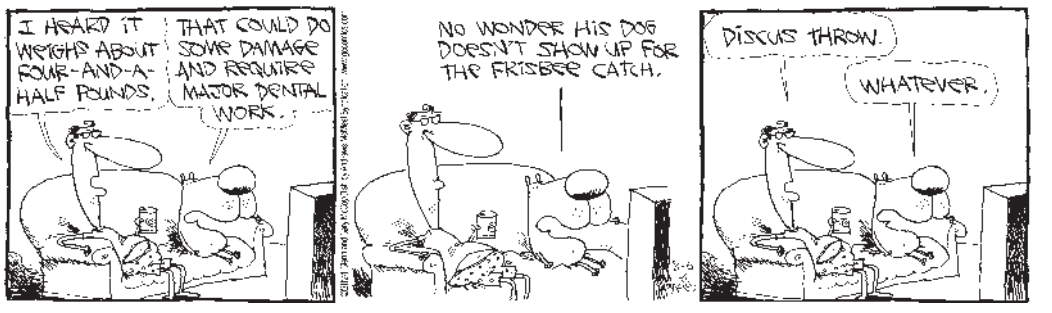
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SO, FOR YOUR COFFEE COMPANY, DO YOU HAVE TO GO DOWN SOUTH TO FIND UNIQUE BEANS?
NO. I'M JUST GOING TO CREATE A DELICIOUS BLEND OF EXISTING BEANS.
GUATEMALAN BEANS. ANTIGUAN BEANS. COLOMBIAN BEANS.
HOW ABOUT JELLY BEANS?
NOTHING IS OFF THE TABLE, DEAR.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I HEARD IT WEIGHS ABOUT FOUR-AND-A-HALF POUNDS.
THAT COULD DO SOME DAMAGE AND REQUIRE MAJOR DENTAL WORK.
NO WONDER HIS DOG DOESN'T SHOW UP FOR THE FRISBEE CATCH.
DISCUS THROW.
WHATEVER.

CROSSWORD

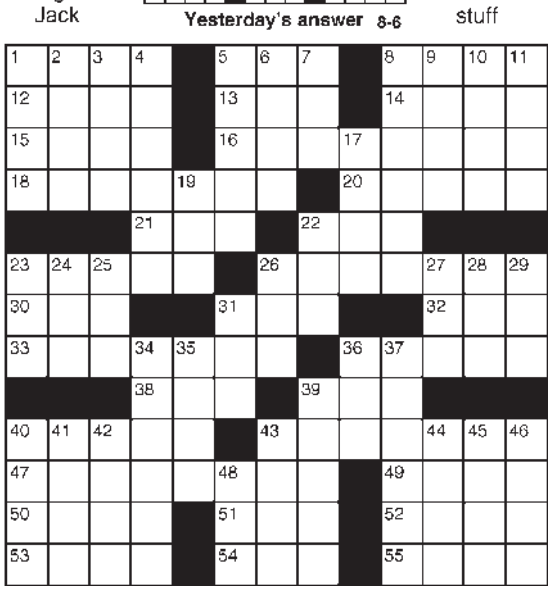
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Study all night
5 Ref
8 Autobahn auto
12 Portrayal
13 Scot's refusal
14 Trumpet muffler
15 Epps of "This Is Us"
16 Australian capital
18 Annuls
20 "Grey's Anatomy" star Pompeo
21 Leading lady?
22 Inventor's monogram
23 Iraqi port city
26 Water flask
30 Comic Margaret
31 Bread spread
32 Year in Madrid
33 Cooked in sugar
36 "24" protagonist Jack
38 Cereal grain
39 Mal de —
40 Lingo
43 Card game
47 Hug and kiss
49 Caspian seaport
50 Say it's so
51 Calendar abbr.
52 Laundry appliance
53 Kitten calls
54 Mimic
55 Group of actors

DOWN
1 Gator's kin
2 "Arrivederci —"
3 Astronaut Shepard
4 "Moon River" lyricist Johnny
5 Mom's brother
6 "Serpico" author Peter
7 Signing need
8 Brunch fare
9 Knitting stitch
10 To be, in Arles
11 Low-fat
17 Legume
19 Perón of Argentina
22 Highland hat
23 Abbr. in an email
24 "Caught ya!"
25 Junior
26 Scoundrel
27 Vichy water
28 Chemical suffix
29 Hide-hair insert
31 Lustrous black
34 Blood givers
35 Shakespeare villain
36 Golfer Hogan
37 Language of Egypt
39 "Tara Road" author Binchy
40 Fraud
41 Wash
42 From the top
43 Hoofbeat sound
44 Poet Teasdale
45 Boxing stats
46 Cousin's mom
48 Genetic stuff

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Vera Farmiga, 51; Geri Halliwell, 52; M. Night Shyamalan, 54; Michelle Yeoh, 62.

Happy Birthday: Hang on to your cash and secure what's important. Opportunity is readily available this year, but before you overdo it, consider what's necessary, and make decisions that will enhance your lifestyle without depleting your bank account. Smart selections will encourage peace of mind and more time to enjoy life and loved ones. Set your sights on learning, staying on top of trends and marketing yourself for success. Your numbers are 4, 11, 17, 26, 32, 35, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take a reticent approach when dealing with associates. Listen, assess and contemplate your next move. A vested strategy is mandatory to outmaneuver anyone who might get in your way. Structure your plans around what's available to you. Privacy and secrecy are in your best interest. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Take charge and initiate the changes that will enhance your life. Participate in events or activities that will help you get ahead or introduce you to lifestyle changes that enrich your life and encourage saving. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take more time to sort through options; if you act hastily, you'll make a mistake. Channeling your energy into discovering what's available and possible will help you avoid criticism and personal setbacks. Treat uncertainty as a warning sign, sit tight and breathe easy. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You can talk your way into anything. Promote what you want to achieve, ask for help and set yourself up for advancement. Emotional situations require honesty to help you decide with whom to share your secrets or personal information. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Invest more time in updates, and ensure you have the qualifications and resources needed to help you achieve your goals. Refrain from relying on others to pick up the slack or do the work for you. Hands-on is your best route to getting what you want done on time. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Refuse any emotional strain outsiders cast your way. Stay focused on getting things done on time and being responsible and accurate. Pay attention to what others expect of you. Make changes as you go. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Learn from experience and situations that require hands-on help. Take care of meaningful relationships first to avoid emotional fallout. If you take someone for granted, the outcome will lead to the point of no return. Set priorities, high standards and boundaries. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Trust your judgment regarding your professional reputation. Be accommodating, but only share necessities. Giving compliments and being charming will help you avoid sensitive questions that may compromise your objective. Take time for something you find calming or rejuvenating. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Gullibility will be your downfall. Don't give anyone the benefit of the doubt. Clarity is necessary to avoid being taken advantage of or led astray. Applying minimalism to every aspect of your life will help clear your head. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You've got what it takes to get things done. Seize the moment and forge ahead with confidence, skill and a smile. Surround yourself with people with something worthwhile to contribute, and don't hesitate to assume a leadership position. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Protect your possessions and work on meaningful relationships. Consider what's available to you and the effort it will take to make your life easier. Set a budget and time limit to ensure success. Aim to ease stress and to free up time to do what makes you happy. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Simplify your life, relationships and goals. Adjust your attitude to ensure better health, emotional well-being and personal growth. Steer clear of situations that tempt you to ignore what's important and give in to poor behavior. Choose your friends wisely. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are thorough, flexible and original. You are sensitive and accountable.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5	8				6	7		4
7			8	5	4		6	3
	6				7		8	1
8			4	7	3		1	
		7	5		2		4	
2				6				
6		9			1		3	
3	2	1				6	9	
						1		2

Difficulty: ★★ 8/6

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	4	2	5	6	1	8	7	3
7	6	3	2	8	4	5	9	1
8	1	5	3	7	9	2	6	4
4	3	8	6	1	5	7	2	9
6	2	7	9	3	8	4	1	5
5	9	1	7	4	2	3	8	6
2	5	4	8	9	6	1	3	7
3	8	9	1	5	7	6	4	2
1	7	6	4	2	3	9	5	8

Difficulty: ★ 8/5

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THE GOLDEN FRUIT DOVE Solution: 6 letters

R	B	I	R	D	H	P	Y	T	H	G	I	L	F	S
A	A	J	R	Y	S	C	I	D	U	A	L	A	V	O
L	N	I	L	I	C	M	N	G	N	E	S	T	W	U
L	A	F	N	I	D	A	A	A	E	T	E	H	A	N
I	N	P	T	F	L	E	S	L	R	O	G	G	Y	D
P	A	O	P	S	O	L	S	B	L	B	N	I	A	S
R	X	B	I	L	L	R	E	C	E	E	A	R	N	C
E	S	E	V	A	E	L	E	R	E	S	R	B	E	A
T	B	A	C	Z	L	N	R	S	E	N	O	E	E	L
A	U	K	I	Y	R	I	E	E	T	L	T	N	R	E
C	R	S	E	E	E	E	R	L	I	W	O	I	G	D
H	H	A	T	S	D	T	I	V	E	M	I	V	L	S
I	S	T	R	S	O	A	E	B	E	Q	A	G	L	O
R	A	D	I	E	T	R	F	L	O	C	K	S	S	W
P	R	A	H	S	R	E	H	T	A	E	F	I	G	S

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Apple, Banana, Beak, Belly, Bega, Berries, Bird, Branch, Bright, Calls, Caterpillar, Chirp, Diet, Exotic, Fast, Feathers, Figs, Fiji, Flight, Flocks, Fly, Green, Iridescent, Island, Leaves, Lemon, Nest, Olive, Orange, Ovalau, Pattern, Pigeon, Rainforest, Rare, Rose, Scaled, Seeds, Sharp, Shrubs, Size, Smaller, Songs, Sounds, Tail, Trees, Twigs, Vine, Waya

Yesterday's Answer: Calendar

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 62 through 77,** order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

American men finally winning gold medals after women opened 9-0 lead

PARIS (AP)—The American men are finally matching the women at the Paris Olympics, where the female athletes went into the halfway mark with a 9-0 lead in individual gold medals for the United States.

The men wearing red, white and blue found a groove on Sunday—Day 9 of the Games.

Bobby Finke set a world record in the 1,500-meter freestyle on the final night of swimming, Scottie Scheffler delivered the best performance of his greatest year by rallying from four shots behind to win the men's golf tournament, and Noah Lyles became the first American to win the men's 100 meters in 20 years.

That all came a day after the American men started to claw their way into the standings when Vincent Hancock made his final two shots to win gold in the men's skeet, and Ryan Crouser followed with his third straight gold in shot put.

American women still made their mark on Sunday: Kristen Faulkner won the women's road race to become the first U.S. rider in 40 years to win a medal in the event, the 4x100 medley relay team set a world record in winning gold in the pool, and Sunisa Lee won her third medal of these Games with a bronze on bars.

A look at what happened on Day 9 of the Games:

AP

Noah Lyles, of the United States, celebrates after winning the men's 100-meter final at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Sunday, Aug. 4, 2024, in Saint-Denis, France.

Lyles at last gets his gold

Lyles has officially cemented himself as "The Fastest Man in the World" with a win in the 100 meters that was decided in a photo finish.

The 27-year-old Lyles is the first American to win the event since Justin Gatlin at the 2004 Athens Games. His lean at the finish line was enough to give him the gold by just .005 seconds over Kishane Thompson of Jamaica. Fred Kerley won the bronze as the United States put two sprinters on the podium.

Lyles ran a career best 9.784 seconds to earn the gold and will seek a sweep later this week in the 200 meters. Thompson's silver is his first Olympic medal and Kerley took bronze in 9.81 seconds.

It was the closest 100-meter since at least Moscow in 1980—or maybe even ever. Back then, Britain's Allan Wells narrowly beat Silvio Leonard in an era when timing didn't go down into the thousandths of a second.

Lyles will be a favorite later this week in the 200 meters—his better race—and will try to join Usain Bolt as the latest runner to win both Olympic sprints.

Defending champion Marcell Jacobs of Italy made the final but did not medal.

Meanwhile, Jamaican sprinter Shericka Jackson pulled out of the women's 200 meters and will not race for an individual medal in Paris. She had already pulled out of the 100 meters to focus on the 200.

Americans set 2 world records as swimming ends

The giddiness over Finke's world record was short-lived as the Americans lost the men's 4x100 medley relay at the Summer Games for the first time.

China stunned the U.S., which had won gold in the event at every Olympics other than the boycotted Moscow Games in 1980. The medley relay was added to the program in 1960.

The Americans had to settle for silver, with France taking bronze to give Léon Marchand his fifth medal of the games to go along with four individual golds.

The Americans closed the swimming portion of these Games with two gold and two world records Sunday. The second medal came in the women's 4x100 medley relay.

Lilly King made up for a disappointing showing in her individual events by powering the Americans to the lead on the breaststroke segment, then it was Gretchen Walsh and Torri Huske, two of the biggest U.S. stars at these Games, bringing it home in 3 minutes, 49.63 seconds to break the record of 3:50.40 set by the U.S. at the 2019 world championships. Regan Smith led off in the backstroke leg, finally earning her first career gold.

Scheffler comes back to take gold in golf

Scheffler is already a six-time winner on the PGA Tour this year — his tally includes his second Masters title — and now he's Olympic champion. The world's No. 1 player won with a 9-under 62 in a thriller at Le Golf National.

Although he matched the course record, Scheffler still needed help.

Jon Rahm of Spain had a four-shot lead over Tommy Fleetwood of England when he stepped on the 11th tee. Fleetwood caught him in two holes as Rahm had a stunning collapse. Six players then entered the chase, including Victor Perez of France, who came within one shot of the podium.

But it was Scheffler who charged to the front with four straight birdies down the stretch. He set an Olympic record for 72 holes at 19-under 265.

Fleetwood won the silver medal and the bronze went to Hideki Matsuyama of Japan.

Djokovic finally wins gold

Novak Djokovic came to the Paris Olympics determined to fill the gap in his resume with a gold medal.

He did it by beating Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (3), 7-6 (2) in an enthralling men's tennis singles final. The victory gave the 37-year-old Serbian the last significant win he was missing in his storied career.

Djokovic already had a men's-record 24 Grand Slam titles and the most weeks spent at No. 1 in the rankings by any man or woman. And although he won an Olympic medal in the 2008 Beijing games, it was a bronze.

He'd lost to the eventual gold medal winner in three semifinals: Rafael Nadal at Beijing in 2008, Andy Murray at London in 2012, and Alexander Zverev in Tokyo three years ago. To finally get the gold, Djokovic had to beat Alcaraz in a rematch of the Wimbledon title match three weeks ago that Alcaraz won to follow up his French Open title in June.

Djokovic is the oldest man to win the singles gold in his sport since 1908—and prevented Spain's Alcaraz, who is 21, from becoming the youngest.

US women roll in basketball

The Americans continued their domination in women's basketball as they chase an eighth consecutive gold medal.

The United States beat Germany 87-68 to extend their record winning streak to 58 consecutive games dating to the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. The team clinched the top seed in its pool as it moves into the quarterfinals.

Khelif clinches medal at Olympics after outcry fueled by gender misconceptions

VILLEPINTE, France (AP)—Boxer Imane Khelif of Algeria clinched a medal at the Paris Olympics in an emotional fight Saturday that followed days of sharp scrutiny and online abuse as misconceptions about her gender exploded into a larger clash about identity in sports.

Khelif defeated Anna Luca Hamori of Hungary 5:0 in the quarterfinals of the women's 66-kilogram division. Khelif will win at least a bronze medal after she comfortably earned the second victory of her tumultuous second trip to the Olympics.

Khelif faced outcry fueled by claims from the International Boxing Association, which has been banned from the Olympics since 2019, that she failed an unspecified eligibility test to compete last year over elevated levels of testosterone. She won her opening bout at the Paris Games on Thursday when opponent Angela Carini of Italy tearfully abandoned the fight after just 46 seconds.

That unusual ending became a sharp wedge to drive into an already prominent divide over gender identity and regulations in sports, drawing comments from the likes of former U.S. President Donald Trump, "Harry Potter" writer J.K. Rowling and others falsely claiming Khelif was a man or transgender.

At a Paris Games that has championed inclusion and seen other outcry over an opening ceremony performance featuring drag queens, LGBTQ+ groups say the hateful comments could pose dangers to their community and female athletes.

Khelif's second win in Paris appeared to be an emotional catharsis for the 25-year-old boxer from a village in northwest Algeria. After her hand was raised in victory, Khelif went to the center of the ring, waved to her fans, knelt and then slammed her palm on the canvas, her smile turning to tears.

She left the ring to hug her coaches while her fans roared, weeping during their embrace and as she walked out. Back home in Algeria, her family and fans watched with pride as she won her second bout.

"I am happy for my daughter. She is courageous despite racist and sexist attacks to break her," her mother, Irene, said on Algerian television.

Hungary's boxing association said Friday that it planned to contest the matchup with the International Olympic Committee but still let the fight go ahead. After the bout, Hungarian IOC member Balazs Furjes said alongside Hamori that she was adamant that it was "never an option ... not to fight."

"I'm so proud of myself, because I had to fight, and I like to fight," said Hamori, who won two fights earlier in Paris. "This was a hard fight, but I think I got to do everything I wanted for the fight, and I think in this fight, I'm so proud of myself, and I'm so grateful to be here. This was really a childhood dream."

Furjes read an equivocal statement in which he praised both Hamori and the IOC while indicating Hungary wasn't completely content.

"We, Hungarians, are always ready to fight bravely, and fiercely, and that's what Luca has just done and showed us," Furjes said. "Of course, the Paris box competitions have their consequences. These consequences must be carefully evaluated after the Games."

Khelif stopped briefly to speak to an Algerian television crew, then walked straight to the dressing room without stopping for dozens of waiting reporters.

IOC President Thomas Bach earlier Saturday defended Khelif and fellow boxer Lin Yu-ting of Taiwan. Khelif and Lin were disqualified in the middle of last year's world championships by the IBA, the former governing body of Olympic boxing, after what it claimed were failed eligibility tests.

Both had competed in IBA events for several years without problems, and the Russian-dominated body—which has faced years of clashes with the IOC—has refused to provide any information about the tests, underscoring its lack of transparency in nearly every aspect of its dealings, particularly in recent years.

"Let's be very clear here: We are talking about women's boxing," Bach said Saturday. "We have two boxers who are born as a woman, who have been raised a woman, who have a passport as a woman, and who have competed for many years as women. And this is the clear definition of a woman. There was never any doubt about them being a woman."

The IBA, which is led by an acquaintance of Russian President Vladimir Putin, disqualified Khelif last year and called information about the tests confidential.

"What we see now is that some want to own the definition of who is a woman," Bach said. "And there I can only invite them to come up with a scientific-based new definition of who is a woman; and how can somebody being born, raised, competed and having a passport as a woman cannot be considered a woman?

"We will not take part in a sometimes politically motivated cultural war," he added.

Against Hamori on Saturday, Khelif fought aggressively from the opening bell, snapping a crisp left jab while the fighters circled. Her fans chanted her first name repeatedly midway through the opening round, and she won on all five judges' cards.

She showed her sharp skill while stalking Hamori in the second round, working behind the jab and catching Hamori repeatedly with short right hands along with an occasional combination to win the second round unanimously. Hamori landed several significant shots of her own and never appeared shaken by Khelif's power, which wasn't really considered remarkable in her weight division before this week.

Twins win 13-7 sending White Sox to their 20th straight loss

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The woeful Chicago White Sox lost their 20th consecutive game Sunday, the majors' longest skid in 36 years and one short of the American League record, as Chris Flexen was chased early in a 13-7 defeat against the Minnesota Twins.

Royce Lewis hit a three-run homer off Flexen in a six-run second inning that gave Minnesota an 8-0 cushion. The White Sox (27-87) rallied and cut it to 10-7 in the eighth, but couldn't get any closer.

Chicago's franchise-record losing streak is the longest in the big leagues since the 1988 Baltimore Orioles dropped 21 games in a row—the AL mark—to begin the season. The NL record is held by the 1961 Philadelphia Phillies, who lost 23 straight.

The major league low belongs to the 1889 Louisville Colonels, an American Association team that endured a 26-game slide during a 27-111 season.

Next up, the White Sox head to Oakland for a three-game series beginning Monday night against the Athletics, who are last in the AL West.

AP

Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Chris Flexen, center, reacts as he comes out of a baseball game during the second inning against the Minnesota Twins, Sunday, Aug. 4, 2024, in Minneapolis.

GIANTS 8, REDS 2

CINCINNATI (AP)—Matt Chapman hit his 17th homer and saved a run by barehanding a slow roller to third base, lifting San Francisco to a win over Cincinnati.

LaMonte Wade Jr. and Tyler Fitzgerald also homered for the Giants, who took two of three from the Reds in a series between teams on the fringes of contention in the NL wild card race.

Robbie Ray (2-1), making his third start of the season, allowed two runs on three hits in five innings. He struck out nine.

The Giants led 3-2 with two outs on the sixth when TJ Friedl hit a soft grounder to Chapman, who barehanded it and threw to first for the out, preventing Elly De La Cruz from scoring the tying run from third.

NATIONALS 4, BREWERS 3

WASHINGTON (AP)—Luis Garcoa Jr. homered for the second consecutive day, rookie James Wood hit a bases-loaded triple, and Washington defeated Milwaukee.

Mitchell Parker threw six shutout innings for his first victory since June 16 for Washington, which has won back-to-back games since a five-game skid that matched a season high.

Gary Sanchez homered for the NL Central-leading Brewers, who dropped the final two of a three-game series and have lost four of five overall. Milwaukee went 2-4 against Washington this year, the first time the Brewers lost a season series to the Nationals since 2015.

ROYALS 3, TIGERS 2

DETROIT (AP)—MJ Melendez hit a pinch-hit three-run homer in the ninth inning to rally Kansas City to a win over Detroit.

Trailing 2-0 going into the top of the ninth, Hunter Renfroe and Freddy Fermin reached on singles with one out. Adam Frazier nearly hit a pinch-hit homer, but the ball curled foul and he flew out to center field.

Melendez then hit a 362-foot blast, his 13th of the season, to give Kansas City the lead.

Chris Stratton (4-3) got the win with a scoreless eighth. The Royals' Hunter Harvey, who squandered a two-run lead in the ninth inning of a 6-5, 11-inning loss on Saturday, pitched the ninth for his first save.

MARLINS 7, BRAVES 0

ATLANTA (AP)—Edward Cabrera struck out eight in five impressive innings and Jonah Bride hit a three-run homer as Miami beat Atlanta to split their four-game series.

Cabrera (2-3) allowed just three hits and two walks. It was the first time in 11 starts this season that he didn't give up a run. Three relievers finished the six-hitter.

Emmanuel Rivera was 2 for 4 with a walk, a run scored and a steal. Xavier Edwards went 2 for 5 with an RBI and a run, extending his on-base streak to 21 games.

All-Star lefty Max Fried (7-6) had a disappointing return from the injured list for the Braves. He gave up five runs and four hits in 3 1/3 innings, walking a season-high five. He also had six strikeouts.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, PIRATES 5

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Joc Pederson's three-run home run in the seventh inning rallied Arizona to a win as Pittsburgh rookie Paul Skenes got a no-decision after taking a shutout into the sixth inning.

Pederson hit a two-out drive to left-center field off struggling Colin Holderman (3-4) to turn a 4-2 deficit into a one-run lead. Pederson's 17th homer of the season came after Geraldo Perdomo and Corbin Carroll walked.

Ketel Marte added a solo home run, his 20th, in the ninth inning off Jake Woodford to give the Diamondbacks an insurance run. Arizona won its sixth straight series and for the ninth time in 11 games.

RAYS 1, ASTROS 0

HOUSTON (AP)—Tyler Alexander combined with four other Tampa Bay pitchers on a three-hitter, Brandon Lowe hit an RBI double in the third inning, and they beat Houston.

Alexander (5-3) entered with two outs in the first inning after opener Hunter Bigge loaded the bases with two walks and a single. He fanned Jon Singleton on three pitches to escape that jam, then allowed two hits over the next four-plus innings to pick up his third straight win. He struck out five.

The Astros didn't get a hit after Yordan Alvarez singled off Alexander leading off the sixth, ending his day. Edwin Uceta came in and retired six straight batters, Manuel Rodriguez pitched the eighth and Pete Fairbanks closed it out for his 21st save in 23 opportunities.

ORIOLES 9, GUARDIANS 5

CLEVELAND (AP)—Gunnar Henderson hit a two-run homer and Adley Rutschman drove in three runs as Baltimore beat MLB-leading Cleveland.

Henderson went deep in the fourth inning against Gavin Williams (1-4) for his 29th home run of the season, giving the Orioles a 6-2 lead. Three batters earlier, rookie Jackson Holliday hit a solo homer as Baltimore split the four-game series.

Eloy Jimenez had three hits and Colton Cowser extended his hitting streak to 17 games, tying the Orioles' rookie record by Trey Mancini in 2017. Baltimore entered the game tied with the New York Yankees atop the AL East.

Corbin Burnes (12-4) won his third straight decision and recorded his 1,000th career strikeout. The 29-year-old right-hander worked five innings and gave up a season-high five runs, four earned, with four strikeouts.

RED SOX 7, RANGERS 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Wilyer Abreu homered twice and tied a career high with four RBIs, leading Boston to a victory over Texas.

Boston leadoff man Jarren Duran, who had three hits, connected on a tiebreaking homer for the second time in less than three weeks at the home of the Rangers.

The first of those two made Duran the MVP in the AL's 5-3 victory in the All-Star Game on July 16. The second added to his official total, a solo shot that was his 14th and put Boston up 3-2 in the fifth inning.

Corey Seager homered for the third time in the series for Texas - his 22nd of the season - and Josh Jung went deep for the first time in his fifth game back since missing three months with a broken right wrist.

DODGERS 3, ATHLETICS 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Kiki Hernandez had two doubles and two RBIs and Cavan Biggio added a run-scoring single as Los Angeles beat Oakland and snapped a streak of six road series losses.

Dodgers rookie starter River Ryan allowed two runs on five hits with four strikeouts and three walks in 4 2/3 innings. The 25-year-old right-hander did not figure in the decision and remained unbeaten through three career starts.

Alex Vesia (2-3) struck out two batters in the seventh inning and earned the victory. He was one of five Los Angeles relievers who combined for six strikeouts and no walks in 4 1/3 innings of one-hit ball. Anthony Banda pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his first save in his second opportunity.

Evan Phillips entered in relief of Ryan and inherited a bases-loaded, two-out situation in the fifth inning. He struck out Brent Rooker looking to end the threat.

PHILLIES 6, MARINERS 0

SEATTLE (AP)—Kyle Schwarber led off with a homer and Zack Wheeler pitched eight scoreless innings as Philadelphia beat Seattle.

Bryson Stott, Bryce Harper and Alec Bohm homered as part of a five-run eighth inning to give Philadelphia breathing room. Schwarber added a double and a single for a three-hit day as the Phillies snapped a six-game losing streak.

Wheeler (11-5) allowed just two hits and struck out nine in his longest outing of the season. He only allowed one baserunner past first, when Cal Raleigh hit a double off the wall in the first inning.

ANGELS 3, METS 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Griffin Canning pitched five stingy innings for his first win in six weeks and Los Angeles held off New York.

Matt Thaiss and Kevin Pillar each had a sacrifice fly for the Angels, who knocked the Mets out of playoff position in the National League by winning the final two in a three-game series.

Los Angeles' bullpen gave up two hits over four scoreless innings, with Roansy Contreras working a perfect ninth to earn his second save.

PADRES 10, ROCKIES 2

SAN DIEGO (AP)—David Peralta hit a three-run home run an inning after robbing Sam Hilliard of a shot and San Diego beat Colorado for their first series win against the last place NL West team in three tries this season.

Kyle Higashioka and All-Star Jurickson Profar also homered for the Padres, who had lost five straight games to the Rockies until winning 3-2 on Saturday night. San Diego improved to an MLB-best 11-3 since the All-Star break.

The Rockies had the chance to clinch the season series, which they lead 6-4 with a three-game series remaining in Denver in two weeks. Colorado came into Sunday with the NL's worst record, 41-71.

YANKEES 4, BLUE JAYS, 10 INNINGS

NEW YORK (AP)—DJ LeMahieu hit a game-winning single through a five-man infield in the 10th inning to give New York a rain-delayed 4-3 victory over Toronto.

Juan Soto launched a tying homer in the seventh and Gleyber Torres had two hits for the Yankees, who won for the seventh time in eight games. New York remained tied atop the AL East with Baltimore, which won 9-5 at Cleveland.

Aaron Judge was intentionally walked three times by the last-place Blue Jays, who purposely gave him a free pass with the bases empty in the second inning Saturday.

The previous Yankees batter to receive three intentional walks in a game was Bernie Williams against Tampa Bay in September 1999.

CUBS 6, CARDINALS 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Justin Steele pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning and Chicago topped St. Louis for their fourth win in five games.

Mike Tauchman and Miguel Amaya both homered in the sixth and finished with two hits and two runs scored to help the Cubs overcome an early 2-0 deficit. Chicago took three of four from its NL Central rival at Wrigley Field.

St. Louis rookie Masyn Winn lofted a two-run homer in the third for the only scoring off Steele. The shortstop's ninth home run was his third in six games and second of the series.

Dolphins No. 1 draft choice Robinson adjusting in first camp

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Miami Dolphins rookie edge rusher Chop Robinson used Saturday's practice as another pivotal class session in his early learning curve.

Robinson, Miami's first-round selection in this year's draft, wants to make an immediate impact and the club already is emphasizing his importance. With standout pass rushers Bradley Chub and Jaelan Phillips unable to participate early in camp because of off-season surgeries, the 21-year-old Robinson is receiving extensive repetitions with the first unit.

"It's been good," Robinson said of his first nine training camp practices. "I've been getting information from the vets. I've been getting information from the coaches. All the guys in the room, all the guys on the team I've been picking brains and just learning every day. I just keep my mouth quiet and learn."

Robinson considers speed the noticeable transition from his dominant career at Penn State to training camp.

"Even the offensive linemen—all the guys are fast," Robinson said. "Everybody just being so fast and being that top dog, that's the biggest adjustment from college to now."

While Robinson excelled at pass rushing during his collegiate career, he acknowledges that run stopping also will become a priority in the NFL.

"I've been emphasizing that a lot and try to get better every day," Robinson said. "Of course I love getting to the quarterback but before I get to the quarterback I have to stop the run."

AP

Linebacker Chop Robinson, selected by the Miami Dolphins in the first round of the NFL draft, stretches during the NFL football team's rookie minicamp May 10, 2024, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Although he recognizes the difficult patches a rookie faces, Dolphins' first-year defensive coordinator Anthony Weaver raves about Robinson's skills and work ethic.

"He's still a young player, still trying to learn the finer techniques and fundamentals of the game but you see his athleticism and his skill set," Weaver said. "What I love most about the kid is his intent when he comes to work. You can see him just contemplating every single thing that's being given to him and try to see what bits and pieces he can take from people to use for his game."

The Dolphins switched Saturday's practice from Hard Rock Stadium, where spectators were expected, to a closed workout at their training camp facility because of a tropical system approaching Southwest Florida over the weekend.

"It was going to be my first time playing at Hard Rock and also my family being here in Florida and seeing the stadium," Robinson said. "Once we heard it was canceled and it was going to be here it was a little emotional, but you still have to bring the work in."

Hayward retires after 14 NBA seasons with Utah, Boston, Charlotte, OKC

BROWNSBURG, Ind. (AP)—Gordon Hayward, who nearly gave Butler a national title over Duke with a half-court shot that just missed on the final play of the 2010 NCAA men's basketball championship game, retired from the NBA after 14 seasons on Thursday.

Hayward played for Utah, Boston, Charlotte and Oklahoma City, and was an All-Star in 2017. He averaged 15.2 points in 835 career regular-season games, and said he was looking forward to spending more time with his family.

"Today, I am officially retiring from the game of basketball," Hayward wrote on social media. "It's been an incredible ride and I'm so grateful to everyone who helped me achieve more than I ever imagined."

Hayward thanked his parents and family, his agent Mark Bartelstein, coaches, teammates, trainers, doctors and friends for supporting him "through countless years and cities, helping me exceed my own expectations."

"To all my fans: thank you for supporting me through the ups and downs," Hayward wrote. "I'll always cherish the letters of encouragement and the moments we've shared around the world. You inspired me to always dream big and improve everyday—and for the young players up next, I challenge you do to the same."

NMI

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the match resumed, both teams were soaked and duked it out on the rain-coated pitch as it didn't let up even until the awards ceremony after the match.

The NMI and Guam's intensity didn't fizzle out from the steady downpour and in fact only waged on stronger, but both teams could not find the net—which led to the decisive shootout after regulation.

With Pablo, Chavez, Bachani, Bergancia, Toves, and Sablan were Paul Lizama, Akoni Matsumoto, Leo Takahashi, Casey Chambers, Cody Shimizu, Leland Deleon Guerrero, Nolan Ngewakl, Ariel Narvaez, Edward Arriola III, Ruben Guerrero, Wataru Kadokura, Anthony Austria, Tyler Omelau, and Monico Claridades. Konomi Suzuki was the head coach, while Jershwin Angeles was the assistant coach, Jireh Yobech was the assistant coach/team manager, Merrick Toves was the goalkeeper coach, and Hazel Mabasa was the physiotherapist.

The Guam team with Suzuki, Jones, Harmon, Diaz, Elwell, and Moore were Renzel Reburiano, Gavin Baker, Giacomo Bustamante, Nicolas Chargualaf, Aldryn Ednaco, Sean Halehale, Matthew Hodgins, Luciano Jameson, Takayuki Kobayashi, Mason Manibusan, Donovan Moss, Beau Perez, CJ Sablan, and Samuel Stenson. Dominic Gadia was the head coach, Michael Milner was the assistant coach, Jeroen Bos was the goalkeeper coach, Vance Manibusan was the team manager, and Ryan Claros was the team physiotherapist.

For 18-year-old Chavez, brother of NMI women's team MVP in the NMIFA Women's U21 Three Nations Cup, Andrei Kaithlyn, the tourney was "a fun and rewarding experience." He said, "The team worked hard for this moment and we are looking forward to our next goal, the AFC qualifiers."

The keeper of 10 years now said that since they played back-to-back games, he felt more tired than pressured. "Soccer is a game about trust and teamwork. Knowing that we all worked hard for this team I felt that I had to give it back to them by making at least one or two crucial saves."

On his MVP award, he said, "I was surprised when I won the award. In addition to being surprised, I simply felt happy that I won it."

He then thanked his and the team's family for supporting them. "Without them, we would not be able to attend training, let alone play soccer. Secondly, I want to thank our coaches for guiding us during training. Without them, we would not be able to play actual soccer. Lastly, I want to thank all the people that came to watch the games. Without them, we wouldn't feel any motivation to win the tourney."

In last year's Marianas Cup, the NMI men's U23 team clinched the title over Guam after they won with an aggregate score of 3-1 over two games. Guam took Game 1, 1-0, but the NMI won big, 3-0, in Game 2 for its first Marianas Cup men's title since its debut in 2007.

SUPPORT

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Guam came back with a similar 2-0 win in Game 2 last Sunday. NMI and Guam players played the second half of the second game in heavy showers, causing them to slip as they hustled for the ball in complete disregard of the tough field conditions. At one point early in the second half, officials had to temporarily suspend the game, as the field was covered with puddles. The match resumed after nearly 40 minutes, but still the downpour continued so did the intensity of the game. Players, besides falling on the ground repeatedly, also started cramping as majority of the starters from both teams had been playing for more than 100 minutes, however they remained relentless and soldiered on. Personnel from the CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services also stuck around to assist, and fortunately despite the slippery pitch, no one got seriously injured

Guam went on to win Game 2 in regulation, 2-0, to force a tie. To break the deadlock, the opposing teams played for extra 30 minutes—still under the rain—and with neither squad scoring, the match had to be decided via shootout. The rain subsided a bit, but not the support from the home crowd that was still glued on the game, as spectators watched and egged on each of the NMI PK shooters as well as goalkeeper Mark Chavez. The NMI goalie made the crucial save against Guam's second shooter, Micah Elwell, using both his hands to knock the ball out. Dev Bachani, Daniell Pablo, Anthony Bergancia, Markus Toves, and Andrew Sablan, on the other hand, delivered the shots for the NMI with the latter's conversion sealing it for the home team. Celebrations both from the crowd and the players erupted after Sablan scored, giving the NMI the back-to-back Marianas Cup. The NMI Men's U23 Team edged Guam via 3-1 aggregate scores in the 2023 edition of the competition.

After their victory, head coach Konomi Suzuki made special mention of the home crowd for supporting the NMI Men's U20 National Team and for even staying for the awards ceremony, which, you guessed it right, was done under downpour.

"Despite the inclement weather, a lot of supporters stayed with us, encouraged us, and celebrated with us," Suzuki said.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association vice president Vickie Izuka, in her remarks at the awards ceremony, said that Sunday night's game was the longest, and probably, the toughest Marianas Cup match in the history of the event. And it was made memorable by the local community's strong support and the hard work that the volunteers, organizers, game and team officials, coaches, and, referees put in together to pave the way for an epic Marianas Football Cup 2024. ***(PR)***

CLIQUE

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teams running together and cheering on their teammates. One team had to do a penalty lap together but that was great to see too. It was an exciting addition to the Beer Mile."

SHS' Lupe Attao said of the event, "It's pretty cool. It's nice and different—which we don't see very often and seeing people come year after year—and being the beneficiary of the corporate relay—it's really an awesome event."

She then thanked Run Saipan, Snyder, and Marpac. "We're just really grateful to be out here and be able to come out into the community more often. It's really a great time and we really appreciate it," she said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	67	46	.593	–
New York	67	46	.593	–
Boston	59	51	.536	6½
Tampa Bay	57	54	.514	9
Toronto	51	61	.455	15½
Central Division				
Cleveland	67	44	.604	–
Minnesota	62	48	.564	4½
Kansas City	63	50	.558	5
Detroit	53	60	.469	15
Chicago	27	87	.237	41½
West Division				
Seattle	59	54	.522	–
Houston	57	54	.514	1
Texas	53	59	.473	5½
Los Angeles	49	63	.438	9½
Oakland	46	67	.407	13

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				
Philadelphia	66	45	.595	–
Atlanta	60	51	.541	6
New York	58	53	.523	8
Washington	51	61	.455	15½
Miami	42	70	.375	24½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	62	49	.559	–
St. Louis	57	55	.509	5½
Pittsburgh	56	55	.505	6
Chicago	55	59	.482	8½
Cincinnati	53	58	.477	9
West Division				
Los Angeles	65	47	.580	–
San Diego	61	52	.540	4½
Arizona	60	52	.536	5
San Francisco	56	57	.496	9½
Colorado	41	72	.363	24½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

American men finally winning gold medals after women opened 9-0 lead
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Sports

Dolphins No. 1 draft choice Robinson adjusting in first camp
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NMI repeats over Guam via shootout

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMI men's team clinched the championship once again in this year's edition of the Marianas Football Cup after a dramatic finish via a tie-breaking shootout in their last matchup against Guam during a torrential downpour last Sunday night at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The NMI and Guam men's U20 national teams played two matches last Saturday and Sunday, with the home team taking Game 1, 2-0. In Game 2, Guam rebounded and won, also 2-0, to tie the tourney up with three points each. Since they were both tied with two goals apiece, they had to play an extra 30 minutes in their last match, but no one scored, so they had to break up the tie again via a shootout of penalty kicks.

The NMI's keeper Mark Chavez, who was crowned the tourney's most valuable player, put a stop to Guam's surging offense with a decisive save from an attempt by Micah Elwell. Guam went on to score four out of five PKs by captain Shuntaro Suzuki, Landon Diaz, Nicholas Moore and Curtis Harmon.

Meanwhile, the NMI kicked all five PKs past Guam's keeper Josiah Jones. Dev Bachani secured the first PK, followed by captain Daniell Pablo, then Anthony Bergancia, Markus Toves, then the final tie-breaking goal by Andrew Sablan, for a perfect five PKs made to secure the title.

The first half of their last matchup was dry but storm clouds loomed above as an aggressive Guam team powered their way to NMI territory. Their tactics paid off as they scored two goals—one just three minutes in by Harmon, then the second in the 45th +3-minute time by Diaz.

Halftime was met with a torrential downpour, but the match continued after until the 58th minute when they had to delay it for 35 minutes because of the puddles that dotted the pitch. When

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NMIFA

Champions of the Marianas Football Cup 2024, the NMI Men's U20 National Team, poses for a group photo during the rain drenched awards ceremony after their last match against Guam last Sunday night at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Support pours for NMI in rain-soaked Marianas Cup finale

Heavy rains poured at the epic finale of the Marianas Football Cup 2024 so did the home crowd's support for the triumphant NMI Men's U20 National Team.

Amid the never-ending downpour, parents, other family members, friends, and fellow athletes of the NMI Men's U20 National Team stayed at the NMI Soccer Training Center for nearly four grueling hours and witnessed the home squad escape with a 5-4 victory over Guam in the penalty shootout.

The Marianas Cup showdown between the NMI and Guam went to a deciding shootout as the opposing teams split the two-leg series. The NMI won the opener last Saturday, 2-0, and

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

NMIFA vice president Vickie Izuka addresses the crowd during the awards ceremony for the Marianas Football Cup 2024. Right photo shows spectators glued at the rain-soaked Game 2 in the Marianas Football Cup Sunday night at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

The Clique wins 1st ever Corporate Relay in Beer Mile

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

A group of friends that runs and drinks together, sticks together.

That's what The Clique did and they topped the first ever Corporate Relay Division of the 3rd Annual Michelob Ultra Beer Mile 2024 challenge last Friday at the slippery grass loop course of the Saipan Vegas Country Club.

The Clique was made up of Aaron Pamintuan, Jason Palacios, Brandon Santos, and Simon Necesito. The former also ran in the men's individual race prior to the Corporate Relay and won third place.

Pamintuan and company downed a total of four beers—a beer each and ran one lap each and clocked in the fastest out of seven other teams with a time of 7:06.

Palacios, along with Pamintuan and Santos, have an Instagram and TikTok account together called The Clique 670, which they named their relay team after. Palacios said of the race, "After watching the first one which they ran individually, I was kind of nervous—I saw people vomiting so I said I had to pace myself. But it was only one lap each for us so I just blasted it and that's what we did."

As for the event, he said it's highly unusual and said, "Just join it for the fun, but don't drink and run."

On their first-place win, he said, "I'm actually surprised. I thought we were going to come in third but hey, I'll take first place." He then said they will go on and drink some more to celebrate their win after the race.

Dr. Ron Snyder, organizer of the event with Run Saipan, thanked MarPac and Michelob Ultra for sponsoring them again this year. He added, "I would also like to thank Saipan Vegas for offering us a generous grand prize for our raffles. Finally, I would like to comment that we were overjoyed to partner with the Saipan Humane Society and help their worthy cause with the proceeds from our Corporate Relay Division."

As for this year's turnout, he said, "The turnout was much better this year. We had limited participation to 40 people in the two main flights and almost made that. In the Corporate Relay Division, we opened it up to 20 teams but only had eight—luckily! This was our first time running a relay division and it would have been much too difficult with 20 teams (80 people). But I was very excited for the new event. It was great seeing

See CLIQUE on Page 15

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The first-ever Corporate Relay Division winner, The Clique, Simon Necesito, fourth from left, Jason Palacios, center, Aaron Pamintuan, fourth from right, and Brandon Santos, third from right, poses with Run Saipan members during the awards ceremony of the 3rd Annual Michelob Ultra Beer Mile 2024 challenge last Friday at the slippery grass loop course of the Saipan Vegas Country Club.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Women's division winners, first place Madge Gai, center, second place Rosemarie Chisato, third from right, and third place Soledad Tenorio, third from left, pose with Run Saipan members during the awards ceremony of the 3rd Annual Michelob Ultra Beer Mile 2024 challenge last Friday at the slippery grass loop course of the Saipan Vegas Country Club.